



## Elizabeth "Earline" Whitley

July 5, 1948 - March 18, 2021

Elizabeth "Earline" Whitley, age 72, of Tallahassee, went to her eternal home on March 18, 2021. Earline was married to Gary E. Whitley and together they built a wonderful life around their beautiful daughters.

Earline was the daughter of the late Charles E. and Elizabeth L. Boykin. Earline retired a few years ago from Florida State University, working a long career in the psychology department. However, what she is best known for is her gifted musical talent as a pianist. Throughout her life she has played for numerous churches and served as minister of music, but she was often called upon to play in large venues, camp meetings, assemblies and as a recording musician. She had an incredible ability to play at any level but was gifted by God to play on demand by ear.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Gary E. Whitley and daughter Angela Whitley, of Tallahassee. In addition to her parents Earline was preceded in death by her daughter, Elizabeth Ruth (Libby) Whitley. She is also survived by her brothers Charles E. Boykin, Jr. (Kathy), Tallahassee, Bobby E. Boykin (D.J.), Mahomet, IL, and B. Dwayne Boykin (Sharilyn), Tavares, FL, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

The family will welcome friends from 10:00 AM until service time on Tuesday, March 23rd at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road in Tallahassee.

Services will follow at 11:00 AM, at the funeral home. The concluding service will follow at 1:00 PM at Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home (850/385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is

assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Funeral Service

MAR 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Elizabeth "Earline" Whitley*



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**Bevis Funeral Home** - March 22, 2021 at 03:39 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Earline" Whitley.*



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March 22, 2021 at 01:50 PM

JL

“*Earline’s Family: I’m so sorry to hear about your loss. I met Earline and her family back in the late 1960’s at Ninth & Branch Street Church of God in Tallahassee, through my cousin Betty NeSmith, who also played great piano “by ear.” After we met, I always wanted to sit next to her in church, because she always made me laugh. One night, just as the minister walked up to the pulpit, a bug started flying around and landed in a woman’s hair two rows in front of us. Earline and I started laughing and couldn’t stop. Her sweet mother turned around and shushed us, but that only made it worse. There are too many stories to tell. I heard she had moved out of town and never knew she had moved back to Tallahassee, which makes me sad, because I would have loved to have gotten together. So many years.....but, we always remember the good people. You’re all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Janitta NeSmith Lindsey*

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**Janitta NeSmith Lindsey** - March 21, 2021 at 11:16 PM

SB

“*Such many memories of Earline at the old Norcross Church of God. She was the church pianist and played for our church Trio which i sang with Shelia Anglin, Agnes Peacock... prayers for Gary and all the families.... Love and Prayers, Shirley Baggett*

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**Shirley Baggett** - March 21, 2021 at 01:15 PM

JL

“*Earline, I used to watch you play piano and couldn’t believe that anyone could make it sound like that. You always had the best hugs and the brightest smile.*

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**Jean Love** - March 20, 2021 at 10:21 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Earline" Whitley.



March 20, 2021 at 05:27 PM



“ Early me was a close friend when she lived in Champaign, Il many years ago. She and I played together (her on the piano and me on the organ) at Curtis Road Church of God. She had an incredible gift of music. She helped me thru some rough patches of life during my divorce, for which I will always be thankful. Such a good friend! She is home now with her parents and daughter enjoying the rewards of Heaven and no longer in pain.

**LaVon Day** - March 20, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ I remember her when she first started piano lesson. She went on to be a great pianist. She played occasionally for Tyson family. She will be missed. See you again one day Earline. Praying for the family.

**Claire Tyson Till & Jack** - March 20, 2021 at 12:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Earline" Whitley.



March 20, 2021 at 12:26 PM