



Faye Wester Blanton

November 9, 1946 - November 8, 2023

Faye Wester Blanton, age 76, passed away unexpectedly on November 8, 2023, in Tallahassee, Florida.

Faye was born on November 9, 1946, in Tallahassee, Florida to Daniel Dexter and Wilma Davis Wester. Soon after, the family moved to Chattahoochee, Florida where she spent the majority of her childhood. She attended Chattahoochee High School where she participated in student government, marching band, school newspaper and drama club. After high school, she attended Chipola Junior College in Marianna, FL. She then lived in Atlanta for a short time before moving to Jacksonville to attend Jones Business College. She graduated in 1967 and eventually moved back to Tallahassee, FL to settle down. She had three children, Wade, Doug and Laurel, and worked tirelessly to maintain a balance in work and home life. She proved over and over again that it was possible to be a wonderful and involved mother while also having a successful career. In 1991, she married Edwin F. Blanton and together, they built a life they loved.

Faye began her 38-year career with the Florida Legislature in 1970 when she went to work for Senator Welborn Daniel. In 1974 she began working in the Senate Secretary's office as Assistant to the Secretary until 1984 when she became Assistant Secretary of the Senate under Secretary Joe Brown. She served in this role until she was elected Secretary of the Senate in 1996

making her the first woman elected to that office for a full two-year term. She was subsequently unanimously reelected each term until her retirement in 2008. Through her deep knowledge and experience with the legislative process, she was able to be a leader through an era of technological changes and increased workload. She played a huge role in keeping the Senate process running smoothly through the complexity of these changes. Faye also played an important role on staff of the 1977 – 1978 Florida Constitution Revision Commission and served as Secretary and Parliamentarian of the 1997 – 1998 Florida Constitution Revision Commission. She was later called out of retirement to serve as Secretary of the 2017 – 2018 Constitution Revision Commission which gave her the honor to have served on all three of its kind in Florida history.

Throughout her career, Faye also participated in many public service activities. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Legislative Research Center and Museum, lectured on the legislative process, and led many mock legislative sessions for civic, student, international and private groups. She also served as an advisor and counselor for Girls State, Boys State, the YMCA Youth Legislative and the Silver-Haired Legislature introducing thousands of Florida residents to the legislative process.

Throughout the years of her service to the Senate, Faye consistently earned the admiration and respect from her colleagues and staff for her professionalism, kindness, compassion and graciousness. She bittersweetly closed that chapter in 2008 to enjoy her retirement and to spend time with her family.

After retirement, Faye tapped into her artistic talents and began taking painting classes and creating beautiful artwork. She also embraced another passion of hers, gardening, and completed the Master Gardener Program through the UF/IFAS Extension. She and Ed both adored the outdoors

through yard work, gardening, birdwatching, hiking, golf and many other activities. She loved wildlife and enjoyed any opportunity to observe it. She enjoyed creating a habitat for birds in her yard and looked forward to seeing them throughout the year. Faye and Ed also loved to travel and one of their favorite places to visit was Montana, where Faye's brother had a home. The highlight of her retirement though, was having the freedom and time to spend with her family, particularly her grandchildren. They were truly the light of her life, and she enjoyed doting on them and participating in their lives.

In the years before her death, Faye faced a decline in her memory. In spite of this, her spark and sense of humor never left her and the love she had for her family never faded. She will be remembered for her infectious laugh and unconditional love and devotion. She asked about her mother regularly and, especially in the last year, expressed her intense need to find and see her. It is comforting to know that she has been reunited with her husband and other loved ones that went before her and that she is finally back in the arms of her precious mother.

Faye was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin F. Blanton; her parents, Daniel and Wilma Wester; and her brothers, Douglas Wester and Dexter Wester.

Faye has touched the lives of many and will be missed beyond words by those that love her. She leaves behind her children Wade (Melinda) McDaniel, Doug McDaniel (Christy) and Laurel (Ken) Rigg; her stepsons Garrett (Amy) Blanton and Travis (Greer) Blanton; her grandchildren Davis, Taylor, Kensley, Ellie, Garrett Jr., Megan, Kai and Silas; her brother Gerald (Sharon) Wester and niece Elizabeth Wester; and many other friends and family.

A Celebration of Life will be held on November 30, 2023, at 11:00 am at

Thomasville Road Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Francis Wildlife Association or the Leon County Humane Society.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Thomasville Road Baptist Church
3131 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

JF

“ She was a marvelous woman. A calm presence in a stressful environment. She always was helpful to me as a young Senate staffer who was clueless and in later years when I lobbied. She was a treasure. Joy Frank

Joy Frank - November 27, 2023 at 06:59 AM

WJ

“ With great affection, Toni Jennings purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Faye Wester Blanton.



With great affection, Toni Jennings - November 21, 2023 at 01:33 PM

WJ

“ With great affection, Toni Jennings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Faye Wester Blanton.

With great affection, Toni Jennings - November 21, 2023 at 01:33 PM

CC

“ Carlos Beruff and Family, Chairman CRC purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Faye Wester Blanton.



Carlos Beruff and Family, Chairman CRC - November 17, 2023 at 10:08 AM

CC

“ Carlos Beruff and Family, Chairman CRC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Faye Wester Blanton.

Carlos Beruff and Family, Chairman CRC - November 17, 2023 at 10:08 AM

DB

“ Deborah B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Faye Wester Blanton.

Deborah B. - November 16, 2023 at 05:26 PM

PW

“ Gerald and family I am so shocked and sad to learn of Faye's passing. I have many fond memories of her both from Chattahoochee and from Tallahassee when I lived there. Please know that I will be thinking of you.



Pete Whiddon - November 15, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Faye Wester Blanton.



November 14, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Faye Wester Blanton.*



November 14, 2023 at 02:14 PM



“ *A little known fact (and unwritten job requirement) is that the Secy. of the Senate helps keep Senators from making procedural mistakes, essentially guarding their public persona (not making a fool of themselves), no matter the party or policy. Faye was great at this. I know because, along with the late Joe Brown, she did this for me on innumerable occasions. She was unyielding to the rules but always warm and understanding while doing so. I owe her much. She was a wonderful friend.*

*Bill Grant
(FL-5)*

Bill Grant - November 14, 2023 at 01:47 PM



That is so true Senator Grant. She was gracious with her knowledge and never let on that she was the brains behind the magic.

susan miller - November 14, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Doug and Taylor, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Your mom and Ed were very special to our family. Lauren has fond memories of going with Taylor to their home to swim. You are in our thoughts and Prayers. The Collins Family.*

Brooke Collins - November 14, 2023 at 09:44 AM