Dorothy Jeane Musselwhite

SEP 24, 1935 - JUL 31, 2025

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SPRING HILL
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

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Dorothy Jeane Musselwhite

SEP 24, 1935 - JUL 31, 2025

Dorothy Jeane Musselwhite was born September 24, 1935 and died July 31, 2025. She is survived by her son, James Byron Closser; daughter-in-law, Myrna Marie Litchfield Closser and grandson, James Byron Closser, II; sister, Virginia Anne Turner Huff (Tom); sister-in-law, Darlene Turner; step sisters, Barbara Allen and Carolyn Shilling (Jim); step brother, Yates Musselwhite (Janice); step children, Teresa (Terri) Musselwhite Carmichael; Gary Musselwhite (Debbi) and Leslie Musselwhite; and step grandchildren, Holly Musselwhite Wolff (Luke), Ryan Musselwhite, Tressa (Ben), and Traci Carmichael Sherbondy (Derek).

Dorothy was born at home in the small North central Florida area of Gator, Florida. She was the first-born to parents Charles Wesley Turner, Sr. and Bessie Mildred Alligood Turner of Dunnellon, Florida. Two more siblings joined the family when Virginia Anne Turner Huff was born in 1940, followed by the birth of Charles Wesley Turner, Jr. in 1942.

The family moved to Palmetto/Fort Myers, Florida where her dad's family had a gladiola farm named the G&V Bulb Company. They worked the flower farm and harvested the cuttings which they graded, packed, and shipped on rail cars for out-of-state buyers. Dorothy enjoyed playing and working around the farm picking flowers, cotton, watermelons, or whatever her dad would grow.

She too would reminisce of sitting on the back porch of the Fort Myers Thomas Edison home on McGregor Boulevard drinking an iced-tea provided to her by Edison's caretaker. And her mischievous side came out when she put a large lily grasshopper in her teacher's desk drawer at the Ft. Myers Church school.

When Dorothy was about 10-years old the family moved to Orlando, Florida where her dad began working in the grounds department at Florida Sanitarium and Hospital. Her mom went to

the hospital's LPN school and soon began working there too. Dorothy attended Orlando Junior Academy then Forest Lake Academy.

While at a church potluck at Lake Ivanhoe in Orlando, the family was enjoying a lazy Sabbath afternoon around the lake when Dorothy's little brother Chuck, pushed an out-of-town guest off the dock and into the lake. The out-of-towner's name was Frank Closser. That's how she met her soon-to-be husband.

Dorothy dropped out of high school (although she did finish her GED 30 years later) and married Franklin D. Closser on August 31, 1954. Frank was from Alexandria, Indiana where the newly married couple moved and lived. Soon after, the United States Army called-up Frank as a medic and the newlyweds moved to Livorno, Italy where they lived in an apartment on the Mediterranean Sea adjacent to United States Army Base – Camp Darby. It was there in the army base hospital that their only child James Byron Closser was born on August 19, 1957.

Three months later they moved back to Indiana where they lived for six years. They moved to Orlando, Florida where Dorothy began work at Florida Hospital in medical records as a transcriptionist. She worked most of her career in the medical field – both in the hospital and physician office settings.

After 25 years of marriage Frank and Dorothy divorced and she remained single for several years. She worked at the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Adventist Book Center, then as the director of the conference service center. Dorothy so enjoyed the company of good friends and the conference was a place where she gained several new ones. She and her good friend Shirley Urhan enjoyed travels to Alaska, Nova Scotia, and Canada. They just happened to be in the air on an American Airlines flight on 9/11 when the twin towers were struck. That's a whole story in itself.

Music was a significant part of her life as she played piano and organ for churches in Indiana and Orlando. She too enjoyed acting as chaperone for music trips and tours in which Jim and Myrna were involved. These trips were organized by dear friends Pat Silver and her husband Bob at Forest Lake Academy.

Dorothy attended the Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was here where she served as a greeter along with Gordon Musselwhite – where they were reacquainted and began dating.

They were married September 23, 1988 and began their lives together. Gordon was a tile/marble contractor and Dorothy continued working at the conference office. She so loved her new extended family and the adventures they provided. Gordon was a welcomed and loved addition to the family. She so appreciated the love and thoughtfulness of step-children Terri, Gary, and Les – and their children as an important part of her life. Unfortunately, Gordon suffered a stroke and passed away. So, in 1996 Dorothy moved to Nashville to be near her family including Jim, Myrna and Jimmy – where she lived on the same street.

She entered the workforce again and worked for Dr. Marcus Min for a few years. Some physical limitations brought an end to her work career, but she did continue service as a volunteer at the Madison Medical Clinic established by Dr. Andrew Boskind. She was adventurous and enjoyed the outdoors, rides in the boat, cruise ship water slides, roller coasters, jet skis, amusement parks, and even tubing and zip-lining at 80 years of age!

Within just a few years, the ravages of dementia began its slow insidious progression. In 2020 after a fall at her home and discharge from the hospital she agreed to live with Jim and Myrna.

The family wishes to express its love and deep appreciation to the many caregivers and friends that have assisted her through these last few years, months, weeks, and days. Some include: Neighbor Jane West, longtime caregiver and friend Marsha Westerbeck, dear friend Brenda Pace, church family, and the many excellent staff of Alive Hospice – especially Kari Lampat, Lisa Baulkon, and Kristen Jelks.

She loved this bible verse found in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10: "However it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' are the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit."

Dorothy loved the Lord and wanted nothing more than to have each of you, every family member, and friend with her in heaven.

Live streaming of the service is available at this link:
https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/114827/hash:FFCF3B15C86454FC

Arrangements entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral Home. 5110 Gallatin Pike, Nashville, TN 37216. 615-865-1101. https://www.springhillfh.com

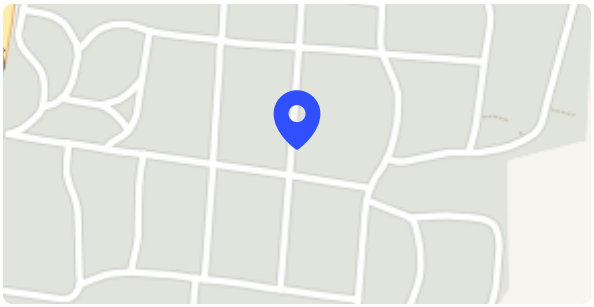
Events

Visitation

Thursday, August 7, 2025

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

Spring Hill Funeral Home
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216

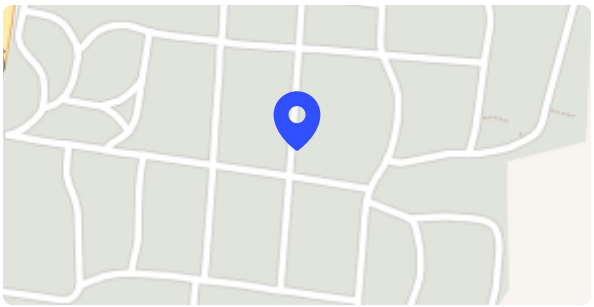


Funeral Service

Thursday, August 7, 2025

2:00 PM CT

Spring Hill Funeral Home
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



Spring Hill Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Video**.

August 2 at 4:38 PM

AL

Aileen Litchfield posted:

Dorothy was such a kind and hospitable woman. She graciously opened her home to Sid and myself when we needed a place to stay for a few days. She was always interested in what was happening in other's lives. One story we will not forget was a Sabbath day. She was taking us to her home just before church was dismissed. We all got in her car and waited for her to start it. It was then that she realized we were all sitting in someone else's car. It looked so similar to hers. We jumped out, made sure no one had seen our trespassing, and drove home with much laughter. She really did love her Savior. What a lovely lady. And we will see her one day all renewed. Aileen Litchfield

September 1 at 11:07 PM

Jane West shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 22 at 12:36 PM

Jane West lit a candle in honor of Dorothy.

After moving in with my daughter next door to Dorothy, we became close friends. We laughed at how difficult it was to take orders from our children. She felt like I understood her. Even when she was having a bad day, I could usually get her laughing about what it feels like to grow old.She had a precious calm, sweet spirit that was infectious. I only knew her for a few years, but I am so grateful for the times we had together.

August 22 at 12:34 PM

Tribute Wall

Dorothy Jeane Musselwhite
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Jane West lit a candle in honor of Dorothy.

Dorothy had such a godly sweet spirit that was infectious! We laughed together about how hard it is to grow old. I understood how hard it is to take orders from your children after years or directing your children to follow Christ and grow in wisdom. I could usually make her laugh even on her bad days.We watched movies, exercised our legs, and joked together as senior ladies. I will always remember the precious times we shared.

August 22 at 12:34 PM

MS

Marillyn Cox-Suzuki posted:

Dorothy had been on my mind much lately, and by chance I came across this FLA-Obituary site and felt such sadness to see her there. Thanks to Myrna, after Dorothy moved from her own house, we were able to have a delightful phone conversation recounting memories from our teenage years. We worked togehter in the Medical Record office at the San when I was at FLA, and was so excited and honored to be one of the bridesmaid in her wedding to Frank. Then, when the army deployed him overseas, I went with her on the bus to New York for her to board the ship to Italy to be with him. She was so much fun to be with and had a wonderful, infectious laugh that I always tried to emulate. In our last conversation, she expressed her gratefulness for her happy years with Gordon and how cherished she felt from the kindness shown by Myrna and family, and how proud she was of her son Jim. Dorothy was a beautiful person who I loved dearly. My condolences to all the family and others who will miss her.- Marillyn Cox-Suzuki

August 15 at 5:50 PM

MS

Marillyn Cox-Suzuki posted:

I had been thinking of Dorothy lately and then by chance saw the obituary. Thanks to Myrna, we were able to reconnect by phone a couple of years ago after she had moved from her own house. We recounted our times together as teenagers as we had worked together in Medical Records department at the San when I was at Forest Lake. I felt so excited and honored to be one of her bridesmaids when she and Frank got married. After he was deployed by the army to Italy, I went with her on the bus to New York when she took the cruise ship to follow him there. I have pictures of us boarding the bus in Orlando, and of her waving from the deck of the ship at the dock in NY. She was always so much fun to be with and had a wonderful laugh that I always tried to emulate. Despite losing some of her cognitive ability, our last conversations were clear as she told me of the intervening years and the happiness she experienced in her remarriage, and how proud she was of her son. She was a beautiful person.-Marillyn Cox-Suzuki

August 15 at 5:17 PM

Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Musselwhite family.

August 6 at 10:15 PM

Melahn Turner lit a candle in honor of Dorothy.

August 6 at 11:32 AM

Tribute Wall

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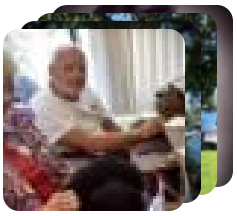

Melahn Turner shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Sweet sweet Aunt Dorothy, she made looking good seem effortless. A shining example of everything The Turner Family is known for...integrity, fairness, generosity, quiet strength and last, but not least...good humor.So pretty too, movie star pretty...truly. The kind of beauty that turned heads, but never needed to. Even her hands, so soft and pretty...graceful and always doing something kind, good and precise. Writing a note, a greeting card, folding church bulletins, making that delicious baklava or placing each decoration on that amazingly spectacular Christmas Tree.Another wonderful memory for me was that she always remembered my birthday, a trait I did not get, unfortunately. She took the time to pick the perfect card, make sure it arrived in my mailbox, right on time and in her, lacy, like flowers blooming cursive...it was always signed, “Much love, Aunt Dorothy. I just think that’s a beautiful way to sign a card. I’ve copied that and when I sign cards, I’m proud to warmly sign, “Much love, Melahn.”Another sweet thing Aunt Dorothy did was hug and kiss us, in her own precious way. She would take my face, in her two, soft and pretty hands and look me right in the eyes and say, “love you” and give the sweetest little kiss, right on my lips. It was heart melting... truly.She loved Jesus and served the church faithfully, not just in word, but in quiet steady action. One of my earliest memories was in the spare bedroom on Magnolia watching her print bulletins. I imagine just setting up and maintaining the printer was, in comparison to wireless printers of now, more laborious and as I remember took up a quite bit more space. I was a little kid so maybe seemed bigger than it was, regardless, I was pretty impressed by this weekly event at Aunt Dorothy’s house. I didn’t know about The Body of Christ then, but once I learned of it...immediately thought of Aunt Dorothy and those bulletins she printed. I realized she was contributing to The Body of Christ, and making it better, bulletin by bulletin.Her home was like her, warm and gracious. I remember everyone loved being there.Southern charm, loaded with it, and something that comes with that...a spine of steel, she could say “no” without you realizing it, but she could also say “no” in a manner so poised and resolute it made you know she meant “no” and not to forget it. Very admirable quality and I’m sure, in part why she was so well respected.Aunt Dorothy is deeply missed, but she’ll never truly be gone. She has left us the gift of her beautiful bright light that’s resting gently on every heart she touched and that will never fade.As much as I miss my dearest Daddy, I shall be forever grateful that the next time he sees his sweet Sister Dorothy will be in heaven with joyous laughter and much love!🌹 Much love, Melahn...She is clothed in strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Proverbs 31:25-26

August 2 at 8:08 PM

TF

The Turner Family sent an Arrive in Style to the Musselwhite family.

August 5 at 12:23 PM

Tribute Wall

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SL

Sheri Landis shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I knew her as I grew up. She was a first cousin to my mother, Martha Turner. They were about a year a part in age, and I've seen many pics of them along with Ginny as little girls. I was able to visit her in Tennessee somewhere around 2016 or 17. She was such a gracious hostess and that short time with her is so endearing to me. That's when this picture was taken. I've just always enjoyed talking with her and am so inspired by her sweet, sweet spirit. I look forward to seeing her in Heaven.

August 4 at 4:28 PM

CT

Chad Turner lit a candle in honor of Dorothy.

I will miss Aunt Dorothy so much. I loved going to see Aunt Dorothy! I remember her Christmas tree being more like a piece of art really. You couldn't stop looking at it. Not sparsely decorated- I mean it was full of ornaments she had collected from various places from around the world if I recall and over many years. Some were antiques some newer and no two alike that I remember. Or it seemed that way there were so many. It really was a beautiful and comforting thing to behold. And she loved reminding me and retelling of the times when I was little and she'd make me vanilla ice cream with Nestlé chocolate and I'd shyly ask her if she could "steer it for me." I honestly think it made it better. She was just so kind and pleasant and comforting and nothing I can write will convey what she's meant to me. Now she's with her baby brother which is of great comfort to me. I wonder what they're up to? I miss you dad and I miss you Aunt Dorothy.

August 3 at 3:03 PM

JB

Janel Benson shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

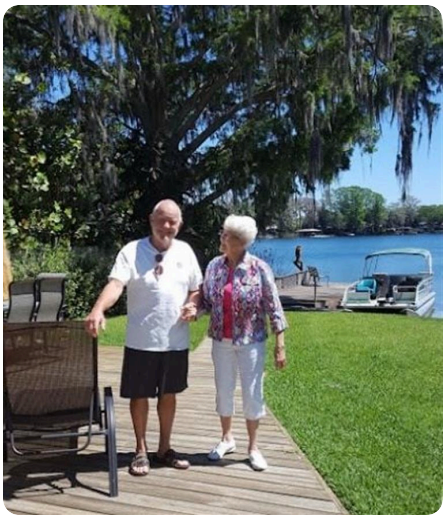
Grams was such a special person. She had a beautiful way of making people feel loved, valued and heard. She had the most beautiful smile and great sense of humor. We used to go get ice cream together and at least once went to a concert on the lawn at the Two Rivers Mansion in Nashville. One time my sister and I stopped by just to show her our fancy dresses for a renaissance festival—she got a kick out of that. Several times I had the privilege of staying at her house and she would regale me with stories and pictures of her family and travels. So many fun memories. She was one of those people who is a special God-given gift to all those who were ever privileged enough to know her.

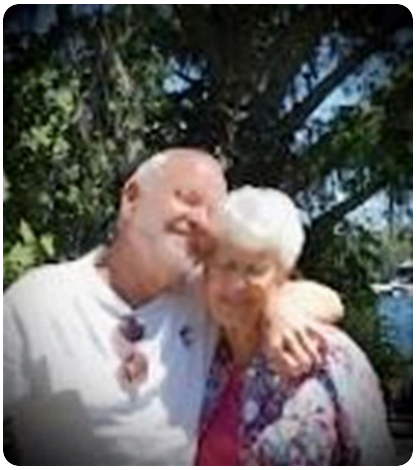
August 2 at 8:08 PM

Spring Hill Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Video**. August 2 at 4:38 PM

Jane West shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album. August 22 at 12:36 PM

Melahn Turner shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album. August 6 at 11:24 AM



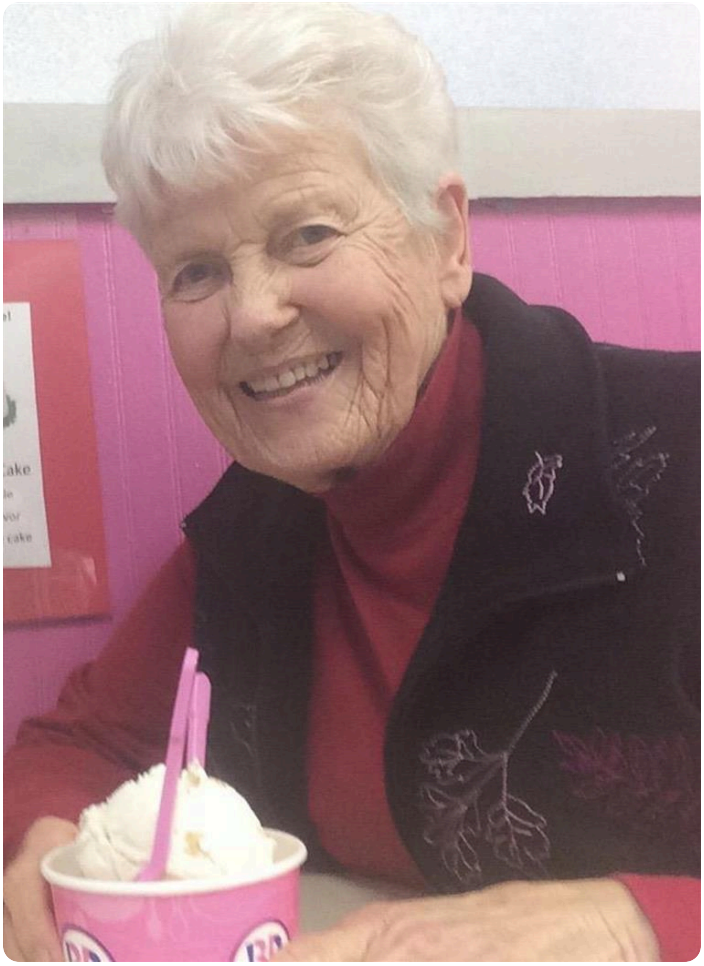


SL

Sheri Landis shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album. August 4 at 4:28 PM

JB

Janel Benson shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album. August 2 at 8:08 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dorothy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.

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