



*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF



**Barbara Anne Mitchell**

**March 29, 1934 ~ January 8, 2024**

[www.SmithFamilyCares.com](http://www.SmithFamilyCares.com)

## **A TEACHERS PRAYER**

*I want to teach my students  
To live this life on earth  
To face its struggles and strife  
And to improve their worth  
Not just the lesson in the book  
Or how the rivers flow  
But how to choose the proper path  
Wherever they may go  
To understand eternal truth  
And know right from wrong  
And gather all the beauty of  
A flower and a song  
For if I help the world to grow  
In wisdom and in grace  
Then I shall feel that I have won  
And I have filled my place  
And so I look for your guidance, God  
That I may do my part  
For character, confidence  
And happiness of heart.*

*James Metcalf*

Barbara Anne Barksdale Mitchell was born in Trenton, Tennessee on March 29, 1934 and departed this world to take her place beside her husband and the Lord on January 8, 2024.

Anne She was preceded in death by her husband of seventy years, Howard Lynn Mitchell, her daughter Amelia Anne Mitchell, her parents Guy Randell and Loueda Smithey Barksdale of Trenton, Tennessee, her two brothers Thomas H. Bruce of Astoria Queens, New York, Buddy Clark Barksdale of Bolivar, Tennessee, and her sister Joyce Bruce Arnett of Memphis, Tennessee.

Anne is survived by three sons, John Michael Mitchell of Benton, Arkansas, Patrick Lynn Mitchell of Frisco, Texas, and David Matthew Mitchell of Plano, Texas. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Michael Lynn Mitchell of Benton, Lisa Nicole Mitchell of Little Rock, David Matthew Mitchell, Jr., Andrew Logan Mitchell, and five great grandchildren, Anna Claire Mitchell, Reid Walker Mitchell, Libby Caroline Mitchell, Grant Thomas Mitchell and Olive Ella Henthorn of Benton, Arkansas and Little Rock, respectively.

Outside of her family, Anne's life work and passion was as an educator. She attended Union University in Jackson, Tennessee and the University of

Arkansas at Little Rock where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education. During her career she taught Literature, History and other subjects; most recently at the Arkansas School for the Blind, until her retirement. Her students and colleagues held a special significance to her, even until her passing, as she did to them. She served on the Pulaski County Special School District Board of Education, was active in local politics, and was a positive influence on the lives of everyone she encountered.

Anne will be remembered for an unflinching devotion to her family and friends, her Christian faith, her wit, humor, intelligence, and tenacious spirit that both sustained her in life and transcends her in death. She was admired and loved in her lifetime and will be sadly missed in her absence.