



## Melba Juanita Jorden

April 18, 1942 - May 1, 2024

Melba Juanita (Watkins) Jorden, 82, of Judsonia, went to be with the Lord on May 1, 2024, at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born April 18, 1942 in Judsonia, AR to Ernie and Pauline Watkins. She married the love of her life, Charles Franklin Jorden, April 10, 1959, who preceded her in death. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to so many. She faithfully attended Berea Missionary Baptist Church for over 40 years, serving as pianist. She loved growing flowers, watching the birds in the yard, and cooking for her family and friends.

Left to cherish her memory are her 2 daughters, Rhonda Jorden (Gerald Russell) and Renee Gentry (Doug); 4 grandchildren: Ryan Gentry (Shana), Jordan Tippitt (Sam), Caleb Gentry, and Nathan Russell (Gayle); 4 great-grandchildren: Lochlann, Liam, Emilia, and Harper; Brother, Melvin Watkins (Glenda); Sister, Eva Gillam; many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and brother-in-law, Dennis Gillam.

A special thank you to those who loved and cared for Melba allowing her to remain at home: Mary Stith, Casey Jackson, Brenda Myers, Kimberly Stith, and Lisa Waller.

Funeral services will be conducted on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Powell Funeral Home Chapel in Bald Knob, Arkansas with Jeff Watkins and Jeremy Gillam officiating. Visitation will be held prior to services beginning at 1:00 p.m. Interment will be at White County Memorial Gardens in Searcy, Arkansas. Those honored to serve as pallbearers are Ryan Gentry, Donnie Martin, Caleb Gentry, Chase Martin, Sam Tippitt, and Doug Gillam.

The family requests in lieu of flowers donations be made to:

Berea Missionary Baptist Church, 109 Laura Ln, Judsonia, AR 72081

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home Bald Knob-Judsonia.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)  
1272 Highway 367 North  
Bald Knob, AR 72010  
(501) 724-3201  
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

MAY 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)  
1272 Highway 367 North  
Bald Knob, AR 72010  
(501) 724-3201  
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Burial

MAY 4. 3:00 PM (CT)

White County Memorial Gardens  
Eastline Road  
Searcy, AR 72143

# Tribute Wall



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family of Melba, especially Rhonda and Renee. I always thought she was the sweetest, nicest lady. I’m so sorry for your loss of your beautiful mother.*

Tanya Guinn Fischer - May 05, 2024 at 09:12 PM

GD

“ *Our deepest sympathy to you all, Melba was a very special lady. a wonderful friend, and a great neighbor, she will be missed by many and remembered for years to come. Keeping you all in our thoughts.*



Gary & Anita Duncan - May 04, 2024 at 10:40 PM



“ *Our Deepest Sympathy & Condolences, to the family members, of Mrs. Melba Watkins.*

*Mrs Melba was one of the sweetest, kindest women, that I’ve had the pleasure to know. She always greeted people, with a pretty smile & loving kindness.*

*Our sincere thoughts & prayers are with you all.*



Linda Hopkins - May 03, 2024 at 06:47 PM



*Larry & Linda Diane Hopkins*

Linda Hopkins - May 03, 2024 at 06:51 PM

MM

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the entire family of the bereaved.  
Gene and Magda McVay*

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**Magda McVay** - May 03, 2024 at 04:02 PM