



Jo Leatherwood

November 27, 1943 - May 12, 2026

Laural Jo Deaton Leatherwood (1943-2026)

Born to Guy Wallace Deaton and Madeline Cunningham Deaton on November 27th, 1943 in Atlanta, Georgia. Jo lived her life as a gift to others. She is remembered for her irrepressible joy and a laugh that served as a soundtrack for some of our happiest memories. She moved through the world with a generous, nurturing spirit, brightening every life she touched with her genuine warmth and love. Jo entered into rest on May 12, 2026 at the age of 82 in the presence of loved ones.

Jo met the love of her life Bobby Herbert Leatherwood at Jonesboro High School. Their love story quickly evolved as she fell head over heels for "that skinny boy out on the ball field." They married secretly on February 21st, 1964. The following summer they "eloped" for a honeymoon which made everyone believe that their actual wedding date was in July. The truth wasn't revealed until 30 years later and is now a favorite family story.

They lived in Riverdale, Georgia for around 50 years where they raised their five children: Barry, Paula, Matt, Robb, and Daniel. While Jo's resume didn't list a corporate title, she held the most vital roles imaginable: Team Mom, Room Mom, and the tireless heartbeat of every school play and sideline. She was fully immersed in her children's world, transforming every opportunity into

a celebration of her unwavering devotion. She was the quintessential 'Second Mom' to all her children's friends. Welcoming everyone into her heart and home and making sure they were well fed, encouraged, loved, prayed for, and supported.

Her love and dedication to her family only grew stronger as she welcomed 15 grandchildren into the Leatherwood family. Though she loved watching the Braves, Falcons, Georgia Bulldogs, baking treats, blessing others through various ministries she and Bobby participated in-her favorite pastime was spending time with her grandkids. Meemaw's sweet personality was only surpassed by the level of sweet treats and bags of goodies that she loved to spoil the grandkids with.

Jo's life was a living testament to her unwavering faith; a journey defined by her deep love for the Lord and a desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus to everyone she met. She didn't just speak of her beliefs, she lived them out through a radical generosity, serving tirelessly in food ministries and finding profound joy in meeting the physical, spiritual, and financial needs of others. To spend even a few moments with Jo was to hear of God's goodness, as she naturally wove scripture and testimony into every conversation. As a mother and grandmother, she was the ultimate encourager, diligently instilling the Word of God into her family's hearts-whether during the morning school drive, at bedtime, or in the quiet moments of the day-with the singular prayer that her children would walk closely with the Lord all their lives.

Laural Jo is survived by her husband, Bobby Leatherwood; her son, Barry Leatherwood; her daughter, Paula Kelley and husband Kent; her sons, Matt Leatherwood and wife Andrea, Robb Leatherwood and wife Katie, and Daniel Leatherwood and wife Brittany; as well as her brother, Johnny Deaton and his wife Marlene. Her 15 grandchildren include: Andrew, Catie, Kayla, Mills, Gabe, Jeshua, Cooper, Ean, Brielle, Emmerson, Khloey-Anne, Owen,

Beckett, Theodore, Addalynn, Everett, and Ellyanna, who will forever carry her legacy of joy.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 from 5 - 7 pm at McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 38 Jackson St., Newnan, GA.

Funeral services for Jo will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 11:00 am at Crossroads Church (the Hwy 154 campus), 2564 GA Hwy 154, Newnan, GA 30265. The family will receive friends during the hour before the service. They also invite you to stay for food & fellowship immediately following the funeral service.

Burial will follow on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 10:30 am at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery (formerly the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Cemetery), 6390 Riverdale Rd. (Hwy 139), Riverdale, GA 30274.

Online condolences can be shared with the family at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 770-253-4580

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Methodist Cemetery

6390 Riverdale Road
Riverdale, GA 30274

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Visitation

MAY 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Crossroads Church Hwy 154 Campus
2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265

Funeral Service

MAY 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Crossroads Church Hwy 154 Campus
2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265

Reception

MAY 27. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Crossroads Church Hwy 154 Campus
2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265

Tribute Wall

DE

“ *She was such a beautiful lady inside and out! Always a joy to be around. Her smile and her presence will be truly missed! Praying for you all!* 🌸🙏



Deenen Eller - May 27 at 09:22 AM

DL

“ *David and Susan Leatherwood purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jo Leatherwood.*



David and Susan Leatherwood - May 26 at 12:29 PM

ML

“ *Max and Cindy Leatherwood purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jo Leatherwood.*



Max and Cindy Leatherwood - May 26 at 08:45 AM

ML

“ *Max and Cindy Leatherwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Leatherwood.*

Max and Cindy Leatherwood - May 26 at 08:45 AM



“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Jo Leatherwood.



May 25 at 09:33 PM



“ Joe Aycock purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Jo Leatherwood.



Joe Aycock - May 23 at 02:49 PM



“ Your work family: Brian, Jim, Poulouse, Kevin purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jo Leatherwood.



Your work family: Brian, Jim, Poulouse, Kevin - May 21 at 11:13 AM



“ Richard Wallace and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jo Leatherwood.



Richard Wallace and family - May 19 at 09:35 PM

KH

We felt like family from the moment we met her. We loved her for that and will keep you all in our hearts and prayers. We especially love her for the gift of an amazing son in law. Keith and Eileen Hefner

Keith and Eileen Hefner - May 14 at 02:05 PM

DG

So sorry Barry for you and your family's loss but always remember she is with her LORD and Savior for eternity and we which are HIS child shall be together. Lean on the Peace that only He can give. David and Dianne Gilmore

David Gilmore - May 15 at 11:04 AM