



Vonda Fay Walters

February 23, 1946 - April 24, 2026

Vonda Fay Walters, a resident of Laurel, Mississippi, passed away on April 24, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on February 23, 1946 in Laurel, she was the daughter of the late Robert Penn and Malinda Walters.

Vonda distinguished herself early in life through her determination and drive. She became the youngest person ever admitted to Loma Linda University School of Nursing - a remarkable achievement that set the course for a distinguished career in healthcare. She went on to become a Registered Nurse, and later a Nurse Anesthetist, dedicating her professional life to the care and comfort of others.

Known for her fierce loyalty and generous spirit, Vonda possessed a big heart that touched everyone around her. She was deeply devoted to her family, forming especially close bonds with her many nieces and nephews, who held a treasured place in her life. She was protective of those she loved, and gave of herself freely. Vonda had a passion for travel, particularly to tropical destinations, and she cherished time spent shopping and connecting with her sisters and friends. She grew up attending the Antioch Methodist church in Laurel, where her faith and community roots were formed.

Vonda was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Frances Caves (Leonard) and Tressie Purdey (Alton); her brothers, Robert Gary Walters

(Betty) and Boots Walters (Thelma); her brother-in-law, William Phillips; and her nephews, Robert Purdey, Bobby Walters, Dewayne Walters, and Trent Phillips (Monica).

She is survived by her sisters, Wanda Norton (Bill) and Barbara Phillips (William); her nephews, Dr. Mark Norton (Rosemary), Terry Caves (Sally), Nick Walters, and Jake Walters; and her nieces, Mandi Norton Smith T (John), Tena Caves Smith (Allen), Tracey Caves Roseberry (Jim), and Malinda Purdey; along with numerous extended family members and dear friends.

A graveside service will be held at Antioch United Methodist Church Cemetery, located at 845 Lower Myrick Road in Laurel, Mississippi 39443 to celebrate her life. Services are scheduled for 2 PM on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

To view and sign the online guestbook, please visit www.memorychapellaurel.com

Cemetery Details

Antioch United Methodist Church Cemetery

845 Lower Myrick Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Antioch United Methodist Church Cemetery
845 Lower Myrick Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

Jl

“ I was a classmate of Vonda at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. We graduated in August 1978 together. We were among the eleven Nurse Anesthetists in that senior class. We were the first class of graduated Nurse Anesthetists to be granted degrees, BS degrees in Nurse Anesthesiology. Prior, the graduates only were awarded a Diploma. The school at UMC had opened in 1961. Vonda was a wonderful classmate and a loyal friend and terrific Anesthetist.
She also took care of my grandmother in the early 80's as a patient at the Laurel Hospital.
I'm sorry to hear of her passing. Such a kind and gentle person with great caring love for all around her.
God's grace and love to all her family.
Jerry Ishee II, CRNA , BS, APN
Nashville, Tennessee

Jerry Ishee II - April 28 at 06:15 AM

SE

“ So sorry! Prayers for her sisters, nieces, nephews and all who loved her!

Sarah Entrekin - April 27 at 08:56 PM

BR

“ Vonda was one of a kind. Her presence was larger than life. She was always the life of the party. She was always straight forward with you and she always made me laugh! She called me Red from the first time I have a memory of her. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Prayers 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Beverly Montgomery Ratcliff - April 26 at 07:58 PM

ID

“ Vonda was a very special person and I will miss her but with many great memories. I met Vonda in the early 1970's when we worked together in the OR at University Hospital in San Diego. Although we both left there we remained in touch over the years and even got together a few times both at her home in Laurel and my home in Sequim, Washington. To her family I offer my deepest sympathy. She will always remain in my thoughts and heart as I'm sure she will in yours..

Isabelle Dunlop - April 26 at 06:34 PM