



Vella Lou Thompson

February 22, 1948 - March 31, 2026

Vella Lou Thompson, age 78, of Tazewell, Virginia, passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, in Bluefield, West Virginia, following a lengthy illness. Born in Red Ash, Virginia, on February 22, 1948, she was the daughter of the late Johnny William Thompson and Bertha Mary Dunford Thompson.

Vella was a bright, talkative, and social spirit who never met a stranger. Known for her lovable nature, she found her greatest joy in the company of her family. She had a passion for shopping, especially at Cato's and took immense pride in her home, which she always kept immaculate. A woman of faith, Vella enjoyed attending services at The Open Door Church in Tazewell and The Bibleway Church in Raven. She was known for her affectionate heart, rarely walking away from a conversation without saying, "I love you, honey."

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Jerry Allen Gilbert; son-in-law, Ricky Kiser; daughters, Barbara Whitt and Crystal Gayle Gilbert; and one brother, Doug Thompson.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children:

Tommy Lee Gilbert, Jr. and wife, Billie Jean McClanahan of Vansant, VA

James Gilbert and fiancée, Sarah Lambert of Raven, VA

Judy Kiser and husband, Dean of Lebanon, VA.

Sisters:

Linda Thompson of Richlands, VA

Mary Ann Thompson of Roanoke, VA

Her Brother, Terry Thompson of Tazewell, VA

Eight beloved grandchildren: Savannah Gilbert, Christian Dalton Gilbert, Matthew Gilbert, Deana Kiser, Timmy Hunnell, Thomas Gilbert, Davin Corey Kiser Belcher, and Michael Kiser Stacy.

She is also survived by her five precious great-grandchildren: Kastay "Cassie" Leab, Waylon Stacy Kiser, Zachariah Kiser Belcher, Alianna Gilbert, and Jelena Gilbert Vicente

A host of family and friends also survive

In Lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Hurst-Scott Funeral Home to assist in her funeral expenses.

Funeral services for Vella Lou Thompson will be conducted at 2:00 PM on Friday, April 3, 2026, at the Hurst-Scott Funeral Chapel in Richlands, Virginia, with the Rev. Greg Harman officiating. Interment will be private.

Serving as pallbearers will be Thomas Gilbert, Dean Kiser, Trevor Blankenship, Dallen Underwood, Timmy Hunnell, and Justine Lambert. A Visitation will begin on Friday at 1:00 PM until the time of the service.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenhills Memory Gardens

11800 Gov G.C. Peery Hwy
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

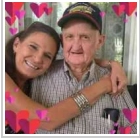
Hurst-Scott Funeral Home
1401 2nd Street
Richlands, VA 24641
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral

APR 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Lisa Garrett sent a virtual gift in memory of Vella Thompson



Lisa Garrett - April 04 at 10:14 AM

LB

“ Vella Lou was a precious friend. I loved her dearly. I used to take her to the doctor. We always prayed. She loved the Lord. She will be missed by me. Vella, I'll see you in Glory. ❤️

Lennie Burke - April 03 at 12:16 PM

JH

“ I haven't seen Vella in many years but I remember her fondly. She was such a kind person & never failed to speak every time she saw me. Always telling me she loved me. You have my deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one!

Judy Hess - April 03 at 09:43 AM

BB

“ She was a lovely person she always was so kind and never failed to ask you to pray for her I remember her as I grow up she never change she was all way a sweet heart I always remember her



Betty Hess Barnett - April 03 at 08:40 AM

SM

“ Sharon Mcglothlin lit a candle in memory of Vella Thompson



Sharon Mcglothlin - April 02 at 06:23 PM

SM

“ I have worked for years with the public and I can say that Ms Vella was one of the most precious people I have ever met. I can hear her say, how you doing honey? Love you honey. She told everyone that. Fly high sweet lady and reap your rewards in Heaven. I'm sure they are plenty 🙏

Sharon Mcglothlin - April 02 at 06:22 PM

CH

Yes as well as everyone else I know her well we had some good times together she loved everyone and yes she would tell everyone I love you and I loved her very very much she will most be missed all the time God bless the family and be loving to one another as that's what Mom would have wanted love candy

Candy Honaker - April 10 at 04:33 PM



“ Rip mamma you was the sweets women I remember meeting you throw Barbara. And u was mamma ever sents you will be missed and you r loved and you will live on throw our memories

Kari Smith - April 02 at 02:56 PM