



## Margaret Maples Oliver

September 14, 1935 - January 19, 2026

Margaret Maples Oliver, aged 90, departed this life on Monday, January 19th, 2026, at Athens Limestone Hospital. Born in Athens on September 14th, 1935, she was the daughter of Ambrose Maples and Annie Lee Burleson Maples, who later became Annie Lee Burleson Matthews.

Margaret is remembered by her son, David Oliver. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ambrose and Annie Lee Burleson Matthews.

To honor and celebrate the life of Margaret Maples Oliver, a memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 29th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The service will take place at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home, officiated by Rev. Geneva Benford, local pastor of Fraizer C.M.E Church.

Margaret will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and loving her.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 29. 10:00 AM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home  
322 Hwy. 31 N.  
Athens, AL 35611  
(256) 232-1051  
info@limestonechapel.com  
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ Phenomenal Margaret

*In Honor of  
Margaret Ellen Oliver  
Mentor. Mother Figure. Dearest Friend*

*Pretty women wonder where her secret lies.  
She wasn't built of titles  
Or draped in grand disguise,  
But when she walked into a room  
The air stood up and sighed.  
I'm telling you why —*

*Margaret Ellen Oliver.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That was her.*

*She had the kind of wisdom  
That didn't need a stage,  
The grace of someone living  
From the inside of her age.  
She called me daughter  
When the world forgot my name,  
She claimed me as her own  
And nothing was the same.*

*Margaret Ellen Oliver.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That was her.*

*She reached her arms out wide enough  
To pull two more girls in —  
Anika and Shirlethia,  
Her granddaughters by choice, by kin.  
Not by blood, but something deeper,  
That quiet, chosen love —*

*The kind that doesn't ask permission,  
It simply rises above.*

*Margaret Ellen Oliver.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That was her.*

*She mentored without lecturing,  
She mothered without walls,  
She built a family out of love  
In the spaces between halls.  
I learned to stand because she stood,  
I learned to shine because she shone,  
And when I look at my daughters' faces  
I see the seeds she sown.*

*Margaret Ellen Oliver.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That was her.*

*Now I walk into a room  
And I carry what she gave —  
Her laughter and her steadiness,  
Her courage and her grace.  
She is woven in my spirit,  
In the way I hold my head,  
In the love I give my daughters  
And the words she left unsaid.*

*Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.  
I smile and tell them simply:  
I was loved by someone wise.*

*Margaret Ellen Oliver.  
Phenomenal woman.  
That was — and always will be — her.  
Inspired by Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman"*

*With love from Drs. Ashaki and Anika & Shirlethia Evans*

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**Dr. Evans** - March 09 at 01:37 PM

VI

“ *I remember Margaret's mother Ann Lee Mathews since I was a little girl at my grandparents always standing in the doorway smiling, while visiting. I met Margaret later at Trinity Church, she was always so nice to my mother and brother on are Easter visits and inviting us to dinner. She was a great cook and sent me recipe and ingredients lists. I will miss conversations with her and her last message from Margaret was go Bears. Rest in peace and may God give David comfort ad peace for the lost of an outstanding mother.*

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**Virginia** - January 29 at 08:28 PM

CA

“ *Mrs. Oliver was like a second mother to me. We spoke often, I miss her already. She was a special person to me. I'm be praying for David in his Great loss.*

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**Carina Ashurst** - January 29 at 04:37 PM

AN

“ *2 files added to the album MMO*



**Andrew** - January 29 at 10:41 AM

AA

“ Mrs. Oliver was like a mother figure to me while I attended Athens State. We grew to be really good friends and talked at least once a year. I’m truly going to miss her. Rest in Peace.

Andrew Anderson - January 28 at 08:10 PM

KJ

“ I worked at Athens State University with Margaret for many years. She was a dear friend also. Praying for David.

Kathy Jarrett - January 27 at 02:52 PM

CB

“ Oh....and another thing....long live the meaning and the memory of the red bird (cardinal) and the lady bug.

Celesta Bridgeforth - January 26 at 07:52 AM

CB

“ In tribute to a lovely, classy, really fun to talk to lady. Church member, my mother's friend and after my mother's passing my friend. We would talk for hours about history, current events and a simple phone call would turn into a joyous visit! I will truly, truly miss her. My prayers for peace and comfort to David.

Celesta Bridgeforth - January 26 at 07:51 AM

RM

“ As Ms. Oliver's former pastor, we thank God for her life. Cynthia and I are grateful that Ms. Oliver welcomed us to Athens and pray God will continue to provide comfort, peace, and love to her son David now and in the days to come.

*Rev. Gary Luther Myers , Mrs. Cynthia Myers*



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**Rev.Gary Luther Myers** - January 25 at 09:46 AM

JU

“ *Judy lit a candle in memory of Margaret Oliver*



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**Judy** - January 23 at 10:48 AM

TH

*So sorry to hear this she was a very special lady. I will miss her talks and cards she sent.*

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**Tracy Hicks** - January 30 at 09:40 AM