



Melanee Ward Phillips

August 12, 1957 - May 21, 2026

Melanee (Ward) Phillips

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Melanee (Ward) Phillips, 68, of Cosby, Tennessee, who passed away peacefully after a long illness on Thursday evening, May 21, 2026, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Born in Whiteville, North Carolina, Melanee was the daughter of Herbert and Mary Ward. Over the years she made homes in both Whiteville and Wilmington, North Carolina, before following her heart to the mountains of Cosby, Tennessee in 2006 — a place she truly loved and where she found peace and happiness.

Melanee was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose greatest joy in life was caring for the people she loved. She was known for her gentleness, kind heart, and the quiet comfort she brought to those around her. She had a way of making everyone feel welcome, often through a warm meal shared around the table. Cooking for her family brought her happiness, and the memories made in her kitchen will be cherished forever. She loved deeply, gave freely, and always put family first.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Mary Ward; her brother, Michael Ward; and her brother-in-law, Dewey Ward.

Left to cherish her memory are her sister, Rhonda Ward of Whiteville, North Carolina; her children, David Trenton Hyatt and wife Mary Catherine of Hornell, New York; David Nathaniel Hyatt and fiancée Lori Sims of Cosby, Tennessee; David Vincent Hyatt II of Wilmington, North Carolina; and Mary-

Michael Phillips and son-in-law Luther Webb of Cosby, Tennessee and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She also leaves behind her seven beloved grandchildren — Erica, Caleb, Brayden, Jacob, Owen, Dory, and Delaney — who brought endless pride and joy to her life.

Melanee will be remembered for her gentle spirit, loving heart, her strength through difficult times, and the deep love she had for her family. Though she will be greatly missed, the love and memories she leaves behind will remain with those who knew her forever.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time with friends and family.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at: www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home