



Melinda Ann Hartley

January 31, 1946 - August 15, 2025

Melinda Ann Hartley, 79, of Irwin County, passed away on August 15th, 2025.

She was born on January 31, 1946 in Tifton, Georgia to the late James and Helen (Smith) Thomas. She and her husband, James R. Hartley owned and operated Hartley's Brake & Alignment in Tifton from 1986 until his passing in 1999. They not only built a business together but also a life full of love. When James passed- her son Rusty stepped up and helped operate the shop with Melinda from 1999-2001, when they closed the shop. She had a servant's heart and enjoyed being there for others. When she could, she would work with Helping Hands & Heart and Hand, as well as sitting with the elderly until she no longer was able. When she became sick, her son, Rusty, took his mother in and was her caregiver for the last few years- something that Melinda will always be grateful for.

Survivors include her son- William Russell "Rusty" Hartley & his wife Renee Hartley of Irwin County, her sister - Judy Pilcher of Rome GA, son- Howie Sexton of Fort Payne AL, daughter- Laura Dickert of Rome GA, stepdaughters- Tammy Earwood & Kay Bobo of Rome GA, 17 grand children, and many great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Melinda was preceded in death by, her husband - James Ronnie Hartley, her infant son - Ronnie Lamar Hartley, her great

granddaughter - Desi Anne Tucker, brothers - Robert Thomas & Don Thomas,
son - James Glen Sexton, and stepsons - Tim Hartley & Jeff Hartley.

There will be no public service- the family will hold a private memorial service
at a later date.