



Melanie Bright Sides

February 14, 1967 - January 16, 2026

Melanie Bright Sides, age 58, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Born on February 14, 1967, Melanie lived a life filled with love, kindness, and genuine care for others. She earned an accounting degree from Jacksonville State University and built a successful career as a CPA, a reflection of her dedication, intelligence, and strong work ethic. Her love for education and community led her to help found the Spring Garden School Foundation. As its Controller and accountant, she gave countless hours to building a strong financial foundation so future generations of students could thrive. Melanie was first and foremost a devoted mother, wife, daughter, and sister. Her family was the center of her world, and she treasured every moment spent with them. She especially enjoyed days at the lake, relaxing in the pool, reading books, and spoiling her nieces and nephews. No matter the activity, Melanie found her greatest joy in simply being with friends and family. Those who knew Melanie will forever remember her kind and loving heart, her infectious laugh, and her radiant smile. She had an unwaveringly positive spirit and cared deeply about everyone she met. Melanie was always thinking of others, ready to help in any way she could, and made people feel truly seen and loved. She was a lifelong member of the Piedmont Church of Christ. She is survived by her parents, Elbert and Linda Bright; her husband of 36 years, Mackie Sides; her daughters, Jordan Sides and Madison Sides Bates (Eli) ; her sisters, Dana Austin (Ricky Austin), Jana McGinnis (Russ McGinnis), and Audra Broome (Rodney Broome); father-in-

law, Ernest Sides; and several beloved nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Riley Austin, Cooper Austin, Dawson Broome, Dylan Rogers, Eli Bates, and Brady Burns. Honorary pallbearers will be Beckham Rogers and Baker Rogers. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Roy and Pauline Bright and William and Bonnie Fagan, her cherished niece, Kinsey McGinnis, and her mother-in-law, Anna Sides. Melanie's legacy is one of compassion, generosity, and unconditional love. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished by all who were blessed to know her. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Venecia's Foundation in Melanie's honor. Funeral service will be Monday, January 19, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at Thompson Funeral Home with Dawson Broome and Brady Burns officiating. A private burial will follow the service. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Monday from 1:00 p.m. until time of service.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Thompson Funeral Home & Crematory
6340 Old Piedmont-Gadsden Hwy
Piedmont, AL 36272
(256) 447-7113
<https://www.thompsonfuneralhomepiedmont.com>

Service

JAN 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

CV

“ I just learned about Melanie's passing. I met Melanie when she started doing my taxes 20 years ago. She was a kind, considerate, loving and caring person. My sincere condolences to her family and friends 🙏 She will be missed 🙏🙏🙏”

Christine Vanek - March 15 at 03:12 PM

TF

“ Teresa F sent a virtual gift in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Teresa f - January 25 at 11:20 AM

JM

“ Melanie was such a special lady. She had been our CPA for several years. Always had a beautiful smile. Praying for the family.



Janet Mobley - January 21 at 09:53 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



January 20 at 11:54 AM

YC

“ Your Friends at Corteva purchased the Simply Lily for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



Your Friends at Corteva - January 19 at 03:25 PM

YG

“ Your G State Girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.

Your G State Girls - January 19 at 12:10 PM



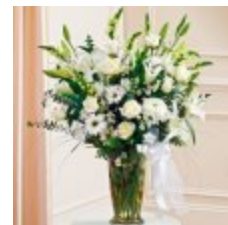
“ Red Rose And Lily Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



January 19 at 12:10 PM



“ White (Large) Sympathy Vase Arrangement was purchased for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



January 19 at 11:48 AM

CT

“ CN Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.

CN Team - January 19 at 11:48 AM



“ Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



January 19 at 09:02 AM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



January 19 at 08:33 AM

KL

“ Karen Ledbetter lit a candle in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Karen Ledbetter - January 18 at 03:16 PM

JC

“ James C. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.

James C. - January 18 at 01:24 PM

CM

“ Cindy Martin sent a virtual gift in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Cindy Martin - January 18 at 12:53 PM

RF

“ Russ, Matt, Valerie and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.

Russ, Matt, Valerie and Family - January 18 at 12:11 PM

RF

“ Russ, Matt, Valerie and Family purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



Russ, Matt, Valerie and Family - January 18 at 12:11 PM

DR

“ I first got to become friends with Mel when she was my student worker in her Freshman year at JSU. She was later our CPA, but still close friends and we loved each other fiercely. I can still hear her voice and see her smile.

Melanie and I had a truly beautiful and special friendship. Mel, you will be tremendously missed, but we'll hear your voice when birds chirp and sing. We'll see your face in the fluffy white clouds in the sky. And, we'll feel your embrace in the arms of other precious friends. Until later Melanie...Debby Jones Rosser. I love you!!!



Debby Rosser - January 18 at 11:36 AM

VA

“ Valent planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.

Valent - January 18 at 10:25 AM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.



January 18 at 10:25 AM

TT

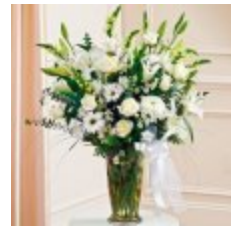
“ *The WFU SRA and Procurement Team purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.*



The WFU SRA and Procurement Team - January 18 at 10:23 AM

YB

“ *Your Friends at BASF purchased the White (Large) Sympathy Vase Arrangement for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.*



Your Friends at BASF - January 18 at 09:13 AM

TF

“ *The Blake Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.*

The Blake Family - January 18 at 12:43 AM

TF

“ *The Blake Family purchased the Lavender & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.*



The Blake Family - January 18 at 12:43 AM



“ *Melanie always had a happy smile. She will be missed. May God comfort you all at this time. Bill and Janice Knight*

Janice Knight - January 17 at 09:39 PM



“ *John H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Bright Sides.*

John H. - January 17 at 08:02 PM



“ *CCHS Varsity Volleyball Team purchased the Flo or Plant for Sympathy for the family of Melanie Bright Sides.*



CCHS Varsity Volleyball Team - January 17 at 07:05 PM



“ *Sandra Baswell Holmes lit a candle in memory of Melanie Bright Sides*



Sandra Baswell Holmes - January 17 at 07:00 PM



“ *Shades of Purple* was purchased for the family of *Melanie Bright Sides*.



January 17 at 05:38 PM

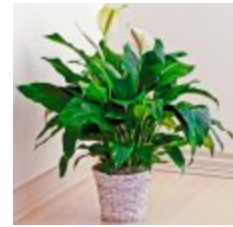


“ *Denise Sanford* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Melanie Bright Sides*.

Denise Sanford - January 17 at 05:38 PM



“ *Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative* purchased the *Floor Plant for Sympathy* for the family of *Melanie Bright Sides*.



Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative - January 17 at 05:37 PM



“ *Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Melanie Bright Sides*.

Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative - January 17 at 05:37 PM

CK

“ Cheryl Kiser lit a candle in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Cheryl Kiser - January 17 at 05:33 PM

MP

“ Melinda Pody lit a candle in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Melinda Pody - January 17 at 05:10 PM

TF

“ Tammy Yancey Faulkner lit a candle in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Tammy Yancey Faulkner - January 17 at 04:55 PM

KC

“ Karen Butler Coffey lit a candle in memory of Melanie Bright Sides



Karen Butler Coffey - January 17 at 04:22 PM