



## Elpha "Teena" Ernestine (Patton) Richardson

November 4, 1934 - September 14, 2021

Elpha "Teena" Ernestine (Patton) Richardson passed away on September 14, 2021 in Buford, Ga. She was 86 years old. Born to Otis and Ernestine Patton on Nov. 4, 1934 in Oxford, Ohio, she was the youngest of three children. Teena is survived by her husband of 63 years, Vernal Edward Richardson, whom she married in 1958, son Ernest and daughter-in-law Tara Richardson, daughter Patricia and son-in-law Greg Niemann, and son Edward Scott Richardson. Grandchildren include Evan and granddaughter-in-law Patricia and great-granddaughter Sophie, Valerie, Derek and granddaughter-in-law Caroline, Clare, David and Liam, and family dog Scherzo. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Blairsville, Ga. on Sept. 29.

### The Gentleness of Your Hands

Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31:31

Thank you Mom for the gentleness of your hands  
That applied a brush to white paper and turned it from bleak to charming  
With watercolor images like a scarecrow and pumpkins  
A farm girl and her dog walking to school  
And, skating on a frozen pond, children with rosy cheeks and long fluttering  
scarves.

Your gentle hands carefully placed the needle on a vinyl disc.  
And when you looked at us your brown eyes sparkled.  
You smiled and announced, "This is the Scottish Fantasy."  
Our living-room in Baltimore with its yellow and gold shag carpet  
Became a concert hall.  
Not the kind where children must sit still.  
In our concert hall we danced and waved our arms like we were conducting  
This work by Max Bruch for orchestra and solo violin.  
The music surrounded us like the highlands of Scotland.  
Mom, you were married 63 years to Dad, a violinist and music educator.  
In your way you were an educator too.  
Your gentle hands turned for us the pages of library books  
Full-page glossy photos of nature and national parks.  
Subjects that inspire artists. You showed us their paintings.  
You studied art education at Indiana University in Bloomington  
The midwest town where you grew up.  
You taught us to notice form and color.  
And you especially loved the paintings of Vincent van Gogh.  
His birds fly over yellow and gold wheatfields.  
His sunflowers remind me of you.  
Autumn gold, white winter lace, the tender green of spring and summer's  
shady grove  
You watched the tree tops from your mountain home in Young Harris, Georgia  
Where you and Dad retired.  
From your artist's table you painted watercolor greeting cards  
To send to grandchildren living far away.  
With gentle hands perhaps you paused to scratch Scherzo behind the ears,  
As he lounged by your feet.  
Always listening to music, your favorite song was "Somewhere Over the  
Rainbow."  
A song about the home we yearn for.

You're there now Mom. Home with your Lord and Saviour.  
We remember the gentleness of your hands.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP 29.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church  
Blairsville, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Elpha "Teena" Ernestine (Patton) Richardson*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Joann Holoman** - December 22, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ *Joann Holoman lit a candle in memory of Elpha "Teena" Ernestine (Patton) Richardson*



**Joann Holoman** - December 22, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ *The beautiful picture was taken when we visited with our granddaughter. Teena had a big fig tree in her house and she took one of the leaves and waved it over my granddaughters head and we had a beautiful time of laughing singing and celebrating together this picture is on the top of my piano and has been there for years and will be there for years to come*

**Joann Holoman** - December 22, 2021 at 10:02 AM

JH

“ I loved Tina very much I was able to spend about an hour every week while my daughter Joanna was having a violin lesson she was the kindest sweetest woman I’ve ever met we enjoyed walking up and down the hills at the young Harris neighborhood we shared many things that women share about their family their children cooking baking and those times were very precious! I gave her a little rabbit once and she took such good care of it she made a little home for it in her porch that bunny had the best care she let it run around the floor and made it look like a wildlife sanctuary! Our family enjoyed recitals together holidays together they invited us over for dinner we went out for dinner with their family and our family. I feel truly blessed to have known Teena and have her a part of my life I will cherish these memories forever I can’t wait to see her when we get home to our eternal home

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**Joann Holoman** - December 22, 2021 at 09:56 AM

JH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Joann Holoman** - December 22, 2021 at 09:50 AM

JH

“ Joann Holoman lit a candle in memory of Elpha "Teena" Ernestine (Patton) Richardson



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**Joann Holoman** - December 22, 2021 at 09:45 AM

TR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**tracy** - September 26, 2021 at 11:46 AM