



Irene Hamrick Thomas

July 24, 1942 - February 22, 2026

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Irene Hamrick Thomas, age 83, of Buford, Georgia, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2026. She was born on July 24, 1942, in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her parents, Burman and Annie Bell Hamrick; her brothers, George Hamrick and Paul Hamrick; and her sisters, Opal (Alton) Thompson and Martha Boone. She is survived by her devoted husband of 40 years, Larry Thomas; daughter, Teresa (Stephen) Plate; stepson, David Thomas; grandchildren, Trent (Fran) Bagley, Lauren (Eric) Tatum, and Chassidy Thomas; and seven treasured great-grandchildren; along with sisters-in-law Lynda Haight and Barbara Hamrick, and many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Irene lived a life defined by deep faith, unwavering love, and joyful service to others. A godly woman with a huge heart, she was full of life and love. She was always quick to smile and laugh, and her generous, compassionate spirit touched everyone she met. A devoted prayer warrior, she continually shared God's love through both word and action.

Irene dedicated more than 20 years to education, teaching in the Buford City School System and the Gwinnett County School System. She earned her master's degree in education from Mercer University and was a true teacher in every aspect of her life. Whether in the classroom or at home, she guided others with wisdom, patience, and love.

Family was Irene's greatest passion. Her whole life revolved around her beloved husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as her siblings, nieces, and nephews. Affectionately known as "Nene," she was hands-on in every way. She lovingly created a special "playroom" in her home dedicated to her great-grandchildren—a space filled with joy, imagination, and cherished memories. Her family was her pride and her greatest blessing. Irene also had a deep love for gardening and flowers, and she possessed a natural flair for design. She was known for her beauty, both inside and out, reflecting grace, warmth, and kindness in all she did.

She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Buford, where her faith continued to grow and shine brightly in her daily life. Irene's legacy of faith, love, generosity, and devotion to family will live on in all who were blessed to know her. She leaves behind a beautiful example of a life well lived and a heart fully given to God and others.

The family will hold a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Nene was my mother in law for 18 years. She was the most wonder friend to all and a great mother in law, mother, grand mother and great grand mother. She always treated me like a son and for all these reasons she will dwell in my heart forever. I thank you Nene for all the treasured memories. May you rest easy in the arms of our Lord and Savior. I Love You! ❤️❤️

Jimmy Maddox - February 24 at 06:53 AM

SH

Awe I always loved her! Such a beautiful lady inside & out! She was my 1st grade teacher at Harmony and I truly loved her!! Praying for Teresa and all the family!! 🙏🙏🙏

Stephanie Greeson Humphrey - February 24 at 04:10 PM

SJ

Irene was a precious lady so sorry about her passing she is at peace now prayers for all the family rip my friend love you 💕

Shirley jones - February 25 at 02:38 PM

MW

Teresa, so sorry to hear about your mother. You have my deepest sympathy. Mary Ann Wood

Mary Ann Wood - February 28 at 08:32 PM

TP

Thank you dear Mary Ann!

Teresa E Plate - March 05 at 09:15 PM

VE

Irene was my 3rd grade teacher. I have called her every year since 1976 to wish her a happy birthday. Truly a blessing in life my since I was 9 years old. Going to my yearly phone call.

Love my Irene.

Vinci Blan Edwards

Vinci Blan Edwards - March 21 at 07:51 PM