



## Kanella Kelly Cook

May 30, 1945 - January 7, 2025

Kanella Kelly Cook, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully at her home in Cullman, Alabama on January 7, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was 79 years old.

Born on May 30, 1945, in Alpine, Texas, as Carol Joyce Kelly and, following the tragic loss of her mother, Josephine, was adopted into the loving Tate family as Carol Kelly Tate. Kanella discovered her passion for singing early in life and went on to become a highly regarded singer in Hollywood, California, where she changed her name to Kanella Kelly.

In 1990, she met and married John Melvin Cook, and ended her singing career to be with him in Summerdale, Alabama, where they lived together until his passing in 2016. She became an active member of the First Baptist Church, helping with the singing program and filling the volunteer role of secretary. She gave her time and talents to her church and loved serving her Lord and savior until she was no longer physically able to attend in person.

In 2022 Kanella moved to Cullman, Alabama to be closer to her family and to live in an apartment that was better suited for her challenging physical needs. Although Kanella was burdened with multiple physical conditions, she faced her challenges with joy and enthusiasm. She became a beloved member of her community, receiving visits almost daily from her loving neighbors and

friends.

Kanella is survived by her children Steven (Diane), and Cynthia (Donald); her three grandchildren Robert, Joseph, and Joshua; her great-grandchildren Brooke and Jacob and her sweet kitty LuLu (Lucky Lucy). She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, John, and her grandson Nathan.

A celebration of Kanella's life will be announced as soon as arrangements can be made. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Cullman County Animal Shelter.

Kanella's quick wit, wisdom, and energetic spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her.