



Mrs. Sally Prosser Verner

November 30, 1929 - November 30, 2025

Sally Prosser Verner died peacefully at her home on her 96th birthday, November 30th, 2025. Her favorite quote was: 'God has numbered my days, but only I can make them count,' one of many paraphrases of Psalm 90:12.

Sally was born in Plant City to Lew and Vaviel Prosser on November 30, 1929. An only child, she graduated as Plant City High School's Valedictorian of the class of 1947. An accomplished dancer, during summers she studied in New York at the school of American Ballet, and went on to college at Duke University where she earned a Phi Beta Kappa Key, was twice elected cheerleader, was an auditioned singer in the Duke Chapel Choir, pledged Tri-Delt sorority, and danced the leading role in the Hoof and Horn annual Production. While at Duke she met her husband John there and they remained at Duke for many years while he completed his medical education and joined the faculty.

Sally and John had 4 children, 3 of them, Sally Lew, Vic, and James during their time in Durham, while she joined the Junior League, served as President of the Duke Medical Dames, on the board of the Durham County Heart Association, as a PTA officer, Cub Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, and co-founder of the Durham County Republican Women's Association.

The Verner family moved to Lakeland Florida in 1962 when Dr. John joined

the Watson Clinic, and their fourth child Ed was born shortly after. Sally continued her work in the Junior League and became its Lakeland President, also serving for 8 years on the board and executive committee of the United Way. She was for many years on the executive committee of the Needlework Guild Children's Services, and was a founding board member of the Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine.

In her "spare" time, Sally also toured with Taproot Theater, a drama program for public schools, was a devotee' and supporter of Lakeland's Imperial Symphony Orchestra, serving on its board, and received an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Southern College where she had been a member of the President's and Fine Arts Councils and a concert scholarship sponsor.

Worshipping at the First United Methodist Church of Lakeland, she became a Trustee and a member of the Administrative Board and originated and chaired for 16 years the lay Care Group visitation and bereavement ministries.

Sally's hobbies included tennis, bridge, backpacking, snow skiing, and being a model for local stores and charity events. She was an avid exercise fan, a substitute step aerobics instructor, and a frequent world traveler with husband John.

Sally was predeceased by her husband John after 71 happy years of marriage together, by son John Victor Verner III, and grandson, Robert Llewellyn German. She is survived by children Sally Llewellyn Rucker (Jeff) of Florissant, Co.; James Prosser Verner of Plant City, FL.; and Edward Miller Verner (Amanda) of Plant City, FL; 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, December 20 at 11:00 A.M. at First United Methodist Church, 303 N Evers Street, Plant City. Committal to follow

at Oaklawn Cemetery, Plant City.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Sally's request is for donations to the care ministries at First United Methodist Church of Plant City. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Cemetery

N. Wheeler Road
Plant City, FL

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 20. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Plant City
303 North Evers Street
Plant City, FL 33563
<http://www.firstchurchplantcity.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Sally Prosser Verner



Hopewell Funeral Home - December 22, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Sally Prosser Verner.



December 18, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ Julie R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Sally Prosser Verner.

Julie R. - December 18, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - December 18, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ 53 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - December 17, 2025 at 12:43 PM

LB

“ Sally was the first person to welcome me to *The First United Methodist Church of Plant City*. She was a joy to be around and I especially loved her beautiful southern accent. I enjoyed sitting next to her on Sunday. Sally you will be missed. I have a voice message you left on my phone and I play it once in a while to hear your voice. Condolences to her family. 🙏

Linda Brewer - December 17, 2025 at 10:50 AM

CM

“ *Cecelia Meyer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sally Prosser Verner*



Cecelia Meyer - December 15, 2025 at 09:15 AM

CM

Dear Sally, I was so fortunate to have you in my life. You were truly an inspiration to me. Love you always.

Cecelia Meyer - December 15, 2025 at 09:18 AM

LK

“ *Dear Sally! What a beautiful soul and mentor for our mother, Charlotte....Mama always talked about “Cousin Sally” endearingly. I loved reading their correspondence letters and cards and enjoyed talking with Sally while caring for my mom, Charlotte. Rest in peace, Sally...I know you are in Heaven rejoined with all your loved ones who’ve been waiting for you!❤️*



Linda Kasch - December 11, 2025 at 09:16 AM

DP

“ *Donna Putnall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sally Prosser Verner*



Donna Putnall - December 05, 2025 at 06:00 PM

PD

“ Charles Wesley’s hymn is so very appropriate for Sally Verner: “Servant of God, well done! Thy glorious warfare’s past; the battle’s fought, the race is won, and thou art crowned at last!” Sally embodied the distinctive traits of classic Wesleyism, a trained mind, a warm heart and willing hands. The Verners move back to Plant City was a boon to First United Methodist and a boon for me, personally. Her leadership in Lay Ministries at First United Methodist in Lakeland was well known and celebrated and her willingness to do the same in Plant City was a true blessing. The Verners brought a unique spirit to us as they did wherever they “landed.” Husband John, lauded, celebrated and feted in so many venues and enterprises still considered marrying Sally his greatest achievement. We love you, dear Friend, but our Great God loves you even more.
Pastor Alan

Pastor Alan L. Beaver, D.Min. - December 04, 2025 at 12:20 PM