



Ms. Sarah Kathryn Copeland

April 2, 1930 - March 17, 2025

Sarah Kathryn Copeland, 94 of Plant City, Florida, passed from this life March 17, 2025, due to complications suffered from a fall. She was just a couple of weeks shy of her 95th birthday.

Sarah was born in Dasher, Georgia April 2, 1930, and was the seventh child and only daughter born to John Virgil and Lilla Quartman Touchton Copeland. She spent her childhood years working on the farm with her brothers and attended Dasher Bible School (now Georgia Christian School.) She was very athletic and enjoyed playing softball and basketball throughout her high school years. She left Georgia to pursue her education at various colleges including, David Lipscomb, Florida College, and Harding University. Upon receiving her degree, she returned home to teach at her alma mater and later at Clyattville Elementary and Lowndes County High School. It was during this time she received a call from Tomlin Middle School in Plant City, Florida to teach Physical Education.

It did not take long for Sarah to begin thriving in Plant City and soon decided to call it home. She pursued both teaching and coaching at Tomlin until she retired 31 years later. She remained active playing tennis and teaching many how to swim long after her retirement. Her love for sports soon led her to become an avid Tampa Bay Rays fan. She enjoyed watching them and could share details about how each player performed. One of her Rays highlights

was meeting “Raymond” the Rays mascot at one of the games she attended and even got a picture with him! She also loved to walk and often encouraged those at Grace Manor to join her. She remained active until just a couple of weeks before her death.

Sarah never met a stranger – in fact, most everyone in Plant City remembered her and stopped to speak whenever she was in town. This thrilled her especially when it was one of her students! She was actively involved in the Strawberry Festival and enjoyed stemming strawberries in preparation for it, along with parking vehicles. She also enjoyed attending the annual Fashion Show with friends from her local church. She was a long-time care giver to her friend Vonelle Smith Miles Robinson. They shared a passion for cats, and Sarah quickly became “mom” to Snow, Tabby, and Cutie. Sarah was also one of the most generous individuals. She spent tireless hours working with her hands to make different items from wood. She enjoyed personalizing each of them and giving them as gifts to those she loved. She was known to walk around the church building with money in her hands for someone she thought was in need. Sharing what she had with others was what made her the happiest!

The only thing Sarah loved more than this part of her life, was her love for God and her church family at the Plant City church of Christ. She never missed a service unless she was sick or physically unable. Even during her last weeks on earth, she was dressed for church services early and waiting on her ride. Sarah wanted everyone to know about Jesus Christ and was often inviting friends and even strangers to church with her. She listened to tapes and CDs of previous sermons and created a “Bookmark” with scriptures mapping out what a person should do for salvation. She loved reading her Bible, singing hymns, and worshiping the Lord. “Going to worship services” was the highlight of her week. If you look at her Bible, there is not a page in it without numerous notes she has written over the years.

Her love and dedication to the Lord was evident in the life she lived. Although she remained single throughout her life, Sarah cultivated a family in the hearts of her students, colleagues and throughout the Plant City Community. Sarah will be missed by her friends, former students, and the church family she loved so dearly.

Sarah is preceded in death by her parents John and Lilla Copeland; Brothers, John Virgil, Jr., Derrell, Julian, Prewitte, Griffin and Robert Copeland, and many nieces, nephews. Hopewell Funeral Home is managing funeral arrangements.

A visitation will be held on Monday, March 24 from 6-8 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, Plant City.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, March 25 at 11:00 A.M at Church of Christ, Plant City. Committal to follow at Memorial Park Cemetery, Plant City. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Georgia Bible Camp, Georgia Christian School, or Florida College. Expressions of condolences at www.HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park

Plant City, FL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Church of Christ
315 N. Wilder Rd.
Plant City, FL

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Sarah Kathryn Copeland



Hopewell Funeral Home - March 25, 2025 at 11:42 AM



“ Dottie & Holly purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Sarah Kathryn Copeland.



Dottie & Holly - March 24, 2025 at 10:36 AM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hopewell Funeral Home - March 24, 2025 at 10:36 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Sarah Kathryn Copeland.



March 24, 2025 at 09:41 AM



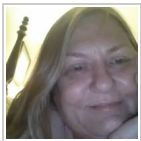
“ Ms Copeland was our cheerleader sponsor at Tomlin Jr. High 1963/64 as well as our Phys Ed teacher. She was always smiling and So kind and caring. I remember one weekend she invited myself Sandy Gibbs Nd Patti Barwick to Georgia for the weekend. We stayed at her parents home. We had a wonderful time. I grew up in Antioch and attended the Church of Christ there. We were often visited by her brother and his wife who was minister at North Street. She was a wonderful and beautiful person who I know instilled great things in all who knew her, esp. her students. Darlene Jalbert

Darlene jalbert - March 23, 2025 at 03:51 PM



Darlene Jalbert, do you know the story behind the broken racket bythe coaches?

Jubie Copeland - March 24, 2025 at 10:03 PM



“ May she rest on God's right knee until all she loved can join her in paradise 🙏❤️

Kimberly Stafford - March 22, 2025 at 09:30 AM

SS

“ Ms Copeland was one of my favorite teachers of all time. Looking back on my time in her PE classes at Tomlin Jr. High, I realize what a bold Christian witness she lived before her students everyday. She was always kind and patient. I am glad that we will meet again someday Sincerely, Sheryl Driggers Short

Sheryl Short - March 20, 2025 at 06:26 PM

CJ

“ I remember Ms. Copeland from school. She was always a very nice person and pleasant one to be around. God be with her. Love to the family ,Effie Carol Hall Jenkins

Carol Jenkins - March 20, 2025 at 02:16 PM

SK

“ Ms. Copeland was such a a sweet, fun loving teacher. At Tomlin I had her 2 yrs with Davie and we were coaches assistants. I say Hi to her when running into her at Publix. Great lady she will be missed.



Suzy Williams Kozicki - March 19, 2025 at 08:33 PM

AC

“ I remember Ms Copeland from my days at Tomlin Jr. High at that time. She was a wonderful coach and loved by many.

Angel Carter - March 19, 2025 at 09:48 AM

MD

“ My connection with Sara was through her friendship with my aunt, Sara Dasher White. Sara Kathryn was known as “Little Sara” because she was shorter than my Aunt Sara. I almost drown in a clay pit (irrigation pit) . Knowing that I liked to roam around our farm, my mother decided that she needed to waterproof me by finding someone to give me swimming lessons. Every day for two weeks Mama drove me to “Little Sara’s” house in Dasher for my swimming lessons in her cement block pool. I could be a little hardheaded and “Little Sara” decided I needed an incentive to listen and follow her directions. I was a earger to listen to her because she rewarded me with one of Miss Lila’s tea cakes. I was very blessed to know “Little Sara” and I will be forever grateful to a kind teacher with the best reward ever.



Margie Lynn Dasher - March 18, 2025 at 09:25 PM

AH

Prayers for comfort for a family she loved dearly and who dearly loved her. I know she appreciated the care and concern shown by each one. God bless you all as you celebrate a life lived well and the blessing she was in your life.

Ann Hall - March 18, 2025 at 09:39 PM

CL

My condolences to all of the family. I loved Aunt Sarah. She always had a funny joke for us when we had family gatherings. She was a sweet and charming lady. Her presence will be missed. Carole Lathem

Carole Lathem - March 20, 2025 at 03:43 PM