



## Ms. Melba Gay (Deck) English

November 12, 1938 - December 21, 2025

Ms. Melba Gay (Deck) English, 87, of Sylvester, passed away Sunday, December 21, 2025, at Pruitt Healthcare in Ashburn.

As per her wishes, Ms. English will be cremated, with private services to be held at a later date.

Ms. English was born on November 12, 1938 in Ney, Ohio, to the late Clay and Gretchen (Shaffer) Deck. She spent all her childhood growing up in the north-west area of Ohio. One of her earliest jobs was working at the Spangler Candy Company in Bryan, Ohio making the famous Dum Dum lollipops. Ms. English married a military man and traveled to different towns along the East Coast. In the late 60's, she ended up in Beaufort, South Carolina where she owned and operated a Ceramic Shop. In the late 70's, she moved to Columbus, GA where she began a career with the Better Business Bureau. Ms. English was formally trained as a Arbitrator, where she became head of Autoline with the BBB. After moving to Sylvester in 2013, she worked with Worth County in the Zoning Department.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Rhoads of Sylvester; her grandchildren, Wendy (Rhoads) Holton, Catherine (Rhoads) Witting, Thomas Rhoads and Brandon English; her great-grandchildren, Jamie Holton, Katie Smith, Abigail Parker, Alex Parker, Cassidy Witting, Finn E. Rhoads, Asher Rhoads and Zoey Rhoads; two great-great-grandchildren, Vivian Holton and Elliott Smith; daughter-in-law, Carlene English; several nieces and nephews; her good friends, Dianna Huston, Brenda Smith, and Linda Smith; and

adopted grandson, Shannon Patterson. She also leaves behind her beloved cat, Beasley.

In addition to her parents, Ms. English was preceded in death by her siblings, Betty Deck, Jim Deck, Ned Deck and Marilyn (Deck) Ailiff; her son, John Sherman English; a grandson, John Thomas English; great-grandson, Jeremy B. Holton; and son-in-law, Richard T. Rhoads, Jr.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Best Friends Humane Society. Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

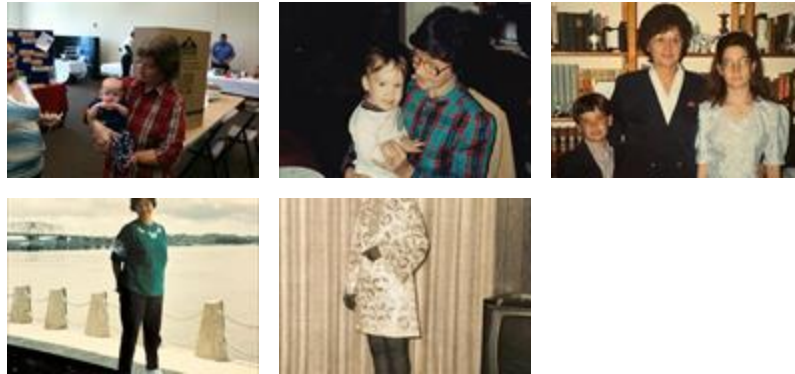
LS

“ *Melba was my closest friend for the last 10 years. I loved her like a sister and will miss her deeply. She was probably the sweetest, kindest, and most loyal person I have ever met. RIP my friend*

Linda Smith - December 23, 2025 at 01:27 PM

SR

“ *10 files added to the tribute wall*



Sharon Rhoads - December 23, 2025 at 12:03 PM

BE

*Hi Aunt Sharon, Windy, Dany, Katie, Abby, Alex, and ect.  
I will be praying 🙏🙏❤️🙏🙏 for all of y'all during this sad time which grandma English has passed away, but I want to remind y'all that her soul loves on in Heaven with God  
I too will miss her but now that I'm the Deacon of my church, even there's sadness but in the Bible God said that if one dies, but will live forever also God says even at the time that one of our love ones passes away that we should not murn but have be joyful  
So now I'm saying good bye but her soul loves on Amen  
From Brandon English 🙏🙏❤️❤️🙏🙏.*

Brandon English - December 23, 2025 at 02:03 PM

EC

“ I am so sorry, Sharon. Praying for you and others during this sad time.

Elizabeth Cowles - December 23, 2025 at 11:19 AM

BB

“ Such a sweet sweet lady! I am blessed that she gave me 2 of her bird feeders just about a month ago. I will think of her every time the birds enjoy their time eating. You will be missed by many.  
Prayers of comfort to all who loved her.



Brenna Barber - December 23, 2025 at 08:23 AM

SR

“ 2 files added to the album Melba English



Sharon Rhoads - December 22, 2025 at 06:35 PM



I am so sorry !!! Praying for peace during this difficult time!!

Amy Bozeman - December 22, 2025 at 07:32 PM