



Belva Jean Owen

Childress

Sept. 23, 1947 - Feb. 19, 2026

Belva Jean Owen Childress, 78, of Morganton, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of creativity, service, and deep devotion to her community.

Born on September 23, 1947, in Transylvania County to Lois Hall Owen and Conway Owen, Belva was a bright light from an early age. After graduating high school in South Carolina, she went on to earn recognition for her grace and poise as the winner of the Miss Easley beauty pageant and Runner-Up in the Miss South Carolina beauty pageant.

Belva was known professionally as a talented Rustic Furniture and Architectural Installations Designer, a career that reflected her natural creativity and eye for beauty. Her work, featured in prestigious homes throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains, including the 2008 HGTV home, showcased her passion for design and her ability to transform natural materials into unique, inviting works of art.

Above all, Belva was a beloved member of her community and the warmest of souls. She is survived by her son, Rob Childress; her daughter, Tracy Primeau; her brother, Shirle Owen; her sister, Joyce Owen Tanner; and her sister-in-law, Margaret Owen. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren—Nathan Taylor, Tamara Taylor, and

Kristain Primeau—and her treasured great-grandchildren: McKenzie, Levi, Addalyn, Caden, Luke, Bella, Lilly, Bryson, and Ember.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lois Hall Owen and Conway Owen, and her siblings Truitt Owen, Billy Owen, Linville Owen, Sylvia Owen Galloway, Sue Owen McCall, and Leon Owen.

Belva's heart for service was evident throughout her life. She volunteered in Hurricane Hugo cleanup efforts and faithfully served at the MANNA FoodBank for more than two decades. Deeply rooted in her faith, she was actively involved in her church, God's Way Fellowship in Balsam Grove.

Belva Childress will be remembered for her radiant spirit, her artistic talents, and the love she poured into her family and community. Her light lives on in the many lives she touched and in the beautiful legacy she leaves behind.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate caregivers who surrounded Belva with comfort and dignity in her final days. They extend special thanks to the dedicated staff at Cranberry House in Newland, NC, and to the caring team at Medi Home Hospice, whose kindness, attentiveness, and gentle support meant more than words can express.

A memorial service to celebrate Belva's life will be held on Friday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m. at Sossoman Funeral Home. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend and honor the beautiful life and legacy she leaves behind.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to MANNA FoodBank, 99 Broadpointe Dr, Mills River, NC 28759, mannafoodbank.org

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

I love you nana, I hate that I didn't get a chance to tell you goodbye. You were the best nana anyone could ever ask for I will cherish our memories forever

–Tamara Taylor

Belva was always such a light in our lives. Her servants heart combined with her depth in faith made her so special to this ministry. We rejoice for her homegoing, and pray for her family to find comfort.

–Lydia Perry c/o Gods Way Fellowship

Belva was not only a beautiful person but she had a beautiful soul. She was a special aunt to me & a friend. She was loved & will be truly missed. I know she is a beautiful angel in heaven celebrating with grandma & grandpa.

–Patsy & Johnny Chandler

I loved this beautiful woman heart and soul. She was almost like a mother to me and my 3 brothers as we grew. She was my mother's youngest sister. She loved and cared for all those around her all her life. Ill miss her the rest of my life. Till we meet again in heaven my sweet beautiful aunt... Ill be loving you...Randy Galloway.

–RJ Galloway

When you were around your light was always shining Bright

That is

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an Amazing testimony Praying for Peace & comfort for the family. That is

–Steve & Vetta Lesley

I love you mama!! I am going to miss you so much! Thank you mom for all the things you have taught me through out life. We will meet again in Heaven one day. Till then, there will always be conversations amongst us of you and who you were.

–Tracey Primeau



–Rhonda Putnam

–Rhonda Childress

–Freida Wrenn

My condolences to the family. It's so hard to lose someone we love.

–Peggy Hill-Childress



–Nancy VanNoppen