



*Melanie Jean Taber*

**Oct. 21, 1976 - Sept. 23, 2025**

Melanie Jean Taber, 48, of Morganton, NC, fell asleep in Christ on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, and is resting in the arms of her Lord. Born in Burke County, NC on October 21, 1976, she was the daughter of Rev. James Edward Taber and Jeannine Diane Kelley Taber. Melanie was a member of Blessed Hope Fellowship.

In addition to her parents, those left to cherish her memory include her sisters, Jennifer Lynn Taber and Stephanie Ann Taber; Stephanie's boyfriend, Brian Scott Curtis; Uncle Rev. Clint E. Taber of Kittery, ME; Aunt Jean Copeland Taber of Cape Cod, MA, Uncle Vernon Lee Kelley and wife, Dotty Kelley of Mt. Vernon, OH, and Aunt Rosemary Sue Kelley of Friendship, ME; and numerous first cousins of various states.

Melanie was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Horace and Elaine Kelley; paternal grandparents, Clinton and Ruby Taber; Aunt Ruby Taber Plummer and husband Bruce Plummer, Aunt Priscilla Gettney Taber, Uncle Dr. Vincent E. Taber, Uncle Rev. Raymond E. Taber and wife Heather Taber; and one first cousin of New Hampshire.

Melanie is a graduate of Freedom High School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Milligan University in Eastern Tennessee. Melanie also

earned her 3rd Degree Black Belt in AMAI Taekwondo from Olson's Martial Arts Academy in Johnson City, TN. She co-founded Taber's Black Belt Academy in Morganton, NC, along with her sisters. Melanie had the vision for them to begin this martial art school together in their hometown. Melanie also worked as Administrative

Assistant at Jonas Ridge Adult Care, Behavioral Tech at North Carolina School for the Deaf, and Team Leader at Burger King.

Melanie had many talents. She played viola in the Milligan University Orchestra. She also played violin and viola in Blessed Hope Fellowship String Ensemble. In addition to orchestra, she played handbells at Milligan University and at her church. Melanie had a talent for learning languages. She loved every culture and learning their language. Melanie was a part of several mission trips, including inner city mission work in Memphis, TN, and Cristo Salva Mission in Honduras. She had a passion for sharing the gospel with everyone that she met. Melanie also had a talent for art seen through her sketches and paintings.

Melanie was a warrior throughout her nine-year journey with metastatic breast cancer, an inspiration to others, and stayed strong in her Faith in God.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home with Rev. Dave Ross officiating. The service will be live-streamed by the funeral home. Burial will follow in Burke Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sossoman Funeral Home, PO Box 2608, Morganton, NC 28680 to assist with expenses.

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

# Tribute Wall



I am deeply saddened to hear the passing of my dear friend Melanie. I'm so sorry I'm just now seeing this news, as I would have paid my respects. Melanie was a vibrant soul with a love for Jesus and such an incredible heart. Heaven gets sweeter everyday. Sending so much love and prayers to your family.

–Allison Potter

Thank u too one off the best karate teachers Ever

–Adrian

Dear Uncle Jim, Aunt Jeanine, Jennifer and Stephanie, I am so sorry I cannot attend Melanies celebration of Life. We have just started a new worship service on Saturdays and it is just Pastor Russell and I leading. Melanie was a vivid testament of God's grace under pressure. Her testimony has reached so many lives. She will be missed by so many , myself included. please know I will be praying for you all during this time. I say with the rest of my family how much we loved her and are grateful for our time knowing her and being her cousin. With Love and joy (will see her at the resurrection day) Sharon and Bruce

–Sharon Marshall



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My deepest condolences to the whole family. I am so sorry for your loss.

–Amy Walker



I sure will miss you Mella. You were always so good to me and to my mom and Nana all these years. I know you fought a very brave fight for so long, but now you can rest. Love  
Clint

–Clint Manuel

I'm so sorry for your loss. You're in my wand prayers.

–Kelly Rucker



So sorry to hear Melanie lost her battle, but she is now resting peacefully. Gloria Smith

–Gloria Smith

...wishing your family peace and courage.

–Bill Wilson

My deepest condolences of the loss Melanie. She was truly a inspiration and testament of her faithfulness to our God. Great is Thy faithfulness is a song that will always remind me of her. Hugs and prayers, Sheri ,Kane and Thomas

–Sheri Taber

Loved Forever, Melanie! Precious memories of your smile, laugh and energetic ways are etched into my my heart. Your unwavering faith in the Lord throughout your illness and encouragement to others is unforgettable. I'm so proud of you Melanie Jean! Love and prayers to your loving parents and sisters! Amen!

–Aunt Rosemary Sue Kelley



To the Taber's I offer my deepest condolences on the transition of your sweet, precious Melanie. I was truly saddened to learn of her leaving. May the good Lord wrap you all in his loving warmth and healing for your sorrow and grief. Please know that I care and am praying for you all. You know that she is at peace now sleeping in the bosom of Jesus.

–Ruth Roseboro

What a child of God Melanie was. She was determined that her cancer would not win over her and she bravely went through 9 years of pain and treatment. I followed her on her journey and was blessed to know this incredible child of God. My prayers are with her father, mother, sisters and other family members as they move on in this world without this awesome young lady. Praying for all of you and knowing God is there to wrap you all in his loving arms of love.

–David Lloyd



We are so sorry for such a great loss. I know the heart ache but I also know she safe in the arms if Jesus waiting for a great reunion in the Kingdom . When the dead will rise first & those who are a live will be caught up & so we shall live forever.

–Bill & Marjorie Fabin

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Melanie was such a special person to me. She had such an amazing laugh and sense of humor. Melanie was always a joy to be around and she loved deeply. Melanie always held on to her faith and she loved Jesus with every fiber of her being. She and I both loved Wonder Woman and one year for her birthday I bought her a set of Wonder Woman bracelets. I never told her this but she was definitely my Wonder Woman. I always admired her strength, love for animals, nature, and creativity. I will miss this sweet girl and she'll dwell in my heart forever until I get to see her again one glorious day. I love you Mel.

–Gregory P Sanders

I am deeply sorry for your loss. She was truly an inspiration and a remarkable warrior. Every time I saw her, she greeted me with a smile, which amazed me given the challenges she faced with such grace and strength. She will be missed.



–Tamara Thrower

–Alexander Nichols

I will miss you !!!! But I bet your dancing in heaven!!!! You were such an inspiration during your journey!!!!



–Deborah Zora



You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

–Lisa Stamey

She was such a sweet, wonderful lady! I knew her and her family well.. We went to Tabernacle Christian school when we were young girls.. I remember going over to her house and playing all the time.. I was so fascinated with her identical twin sisters... they all had violins they played.. as I grew up and had a daughter of my own, I took her to the Taber black belt academy.. she was an inspiration to us all . A true warrior.. she gave everything to honor the Lord!! What a testimony to us all. She will be missed! She was about to turn 50 years old.. she was about 4 months ahead of me. I'm sorry I will not be able to attend the receiving.. I will be out of town.. I just wanted to tell the entire Taber family that she will be missed , and the promised hope in Jesus that we WILL see her again!

–Andrea Sellers Frye



–Eric & Dorinda Franklin

Our prayers continue for your family Jim and Jennie We have been blessed to pray with you and be inspired by her faith and strength We will be with you in spirit through this time All our love and prayers our cousins Donna Ashley and Son Pastor Joe

–Pastor Joe and Donna Ashley

I love you Melanie I enjoyed your friendship and the times we had at BK

–Debbie Sobson



Melanie was a wonderful friend. I will miss Melanie. I am thankful for the opportunities I had to play in the string ensemble with her at Blessed Hope Fellowship in Morganton. My sincerest condolences to the family - Pastor & Mrs. Taber, Jennifer and Stephanie.

–Nelson Walker