



Norma Jean Bender Chidester

February 26, 1940 - January 5, 2022

Norma Jean Bender Chidester, age 81, of the Gaines-Canaan Community of southern Upshur County, passed away at her home on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, after a long battle with Myeloproliferative Neoplasm, a rare type of blood cancer. She was born on February 26, 1940, a daughter of the late Clarence Bender and Barbara Alice Humphrey Bender Anderson. She was united in marriage on September 8, 1956, to Ersel Wade Chidester, Sr., who survives. Also surviving are one son Ersel Wade (Mickey) Chidester, Jr. and wife Linda of Buckhannon; five daughters: Sharon Cathaleen Chidester of Canaan, Starrleen G. Wooddell and Forrest Wooddell of Greenbank, WV, Ann Renee Wilson and husband Vernon Craig of the Gaines-Canaan community, Angela Marie Chidester of Texas, and Shannon Richelle and husband Nicholas Bosley of Canaan; one sister Annabelle Hall of Baltimore, MD; seven grandchildren: Misty Dawn and husband Frank Fuller, Kathryn (Kat) Grayson Dixon and husband Fredrick Scott Dixon, Brandy Ann Hedrick and Josh Hedrick, Eric Wade Chidester, Dylan Wade Chidester and wife Eva, Ashley Dawn Wooddell, and Cheyenne Madison Martin; and eight great-grandchildren: Ty Bosley, Abigale Fuller, Kyndal Alderman, Hayden Chidester, Journey Phillips, Cedric Wooddell, Luke Belch, Halayna Belch, and Keiara Vandevender. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by one beloved son Tony Ross Chidester; two brothers: Leonard Bender and Hartzel Bender; and four sisters: Martha Beckman, Lavinia Beckner, Flossy Lee Cutright, and Shirley Heater.

Our beloved mother valued her family above all else. She was a strong woman and was always there to listen, counsel, love, and comfort her family through good times and bad. She was our rock and will be missed beyond measure.

In accordance with her wishes, she will be cremated and a private family graveside service will be held at the Canaan Cemetery at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Canaan Cemetery

Tribute Wall

CW

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Connie & Thomas

Connie Wilson - January 07, 2022 at 12:37 PM

CW

“ Connie Wilson lit a candle in memory of
Norma Jean Bender Chidester



Connie Wilson - January 07, 2022 at 12:36 PM

DT

“ sorry for your loss.. never got to get to know her, in my time in the
Bender family

Darlene Turner - January 07, 2022 at 06:11 AM

SF

“ As I sit with tears in my eyes, I remember the days spent with you
all. Love and hugs, prayers for you all.

Sandy Fultz - January 06, 2022 at 09:52 PM

JS

“ Hugs, Love & Prayers are going out for Ersel & the family. So many
childhood memories growing up in Canaan! My heart breaks to hear
this news! Rest in Peace sweet lady!

Julie & Steve Sheppard - January 06, 2022 at 08:30 PM

AC

“ Rest in peace lady i loved my Aunt forever i shall treasure and miss our phone conversations. I often think of her and her family memories from my child hood . Hugs and prayers to my family.

Alicia cutright - January 06, 2022 at 04:11 PM

CF

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family during this difficult time. May God watch over each of you and keep you in his care.

Carolyn and Joel Flory

Carolyn Sites Flory - January 06, 2022 at 02:09 PM

CM

“ Rip aunt norma

Carol bender mcnatt - January 06, 2022 at 11:50 AM

MJ

“ My Aunt Norma Jean was an amazing woman. My prayer is that all her loved ones can find some comfort and peace in this very difficult time. There are so many fond memories that I hold dearly. May God bless you all.

*Mickey & Linda Johnson
Middleburg, FL*

Mickey Johnson - January 06, 2022 at 09:35 AM

SS

“ So very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. It was an honor to meet her and a privilege to break bread with her and part of the family this past 4th of July. What a wonderful family!! God Bless

Suzanne Snyder - January 06, 2022 at 02:39 AM

NW

“ We are so sorry to hear about Norma Jean passing. We have a lot of fond memories with your family around Cannan for many years! May God help you through this time of grief. You're all in our thoughts & Prayers!
Sincerely, Rev. Junior Harris & family

Nancy (Harris) Wamsley - January 05, 2022 at 10:36 PM