

Mary Eleanor Knowles Walden

Mary Eleanor Knowles Walden, or as her family and friends called her "El", "E", and "The Divine Miss E", passed away on April 29, 2022. Eleanor grew up in Athens, Georgia, and met the love of her life, Everett Gordon Walden, in a ballroom dancing class while both were students at The University of Georgia. The ultimate people person, Eleanor was in her element when helping others, allowing her to serve her community in countless professional and personal ways. She had a keen creative eye, razor sharp wit, and exceptional design skill. Eleanor was known as the go-to floral designer for the Vestavia Belles, the ideal wedding director to both "help it run and make it fun," and Hollywood Pool's most sought-after retail furniture face. She had a special place in her heart for the youth of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, serving many years as a United Methodist Youth Fellowship counselor. She gave generously and passionately of her time in support of the children served by United Ability (formerly United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham), as a Board member in Civiettes.

Eleanor is survived by her husband of 54 years, Gordon Walden, Rett Walden (son), Rebecca Walden (daughter-in-law), grandchildren Ella and Connor Walden, Jim Knowles (brother) (Danita) of Tennille, GA, James L. Walden, (brother-in-law) (Judy) of Atlanta, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service in celebration of Eleanor's life will take place Friday, June 3rd at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. Visitation in the sanctuary from 10-12; service immediately following. In lieu of flowers, please donate to VHUMC (Care and Support Ministry) or (Youth Ministry).