



## Mrs. Merrily Francis McLaughlin

November 6, 1951 - November 27, 2023

Merrily Francis (Dunham) McLaughlin (72) of Woodstock, Georgia, passed away on November 27, 2023. Merrily represented the finest attributes of a true Southern woman. She grew up in Tennessee in a loving family with three siblings who were always busy working on projects with their parents or traveling to fun places together. She graduated with a degree in chemistry from the University of Tennessee and worked as a medical technologist for many years before pursuing her true passions which included gardening and developing specialty sauces and gourmet foods under her company name, Merrily Gardens. For more than 20 years, she also worked tirelessly behind the scenes, supporting charitable organizations in her community.

Her scientific mind was balanced by a wonderfully creative heart. She could size up people and situations instantly. She was tirelessly kind and generous to those around her. She never wanted to take the spotlight but somehow was always thrust into leadership roles because her word was her bond. If Merrily committed to something, you could count on her getting the job done and that it would be done right. She was a dedicated friend and an honorable lady who will be missed terribly by all.

She is survived by her husband, John McLaughlin, her sister, Sara Dunham, her brothers Rick and Mike Dunham, her daughter, Melissa, son-in-law Joe, and grandson Walker.

The family will receive friends at 10 AM on Saturday, December 9 with services to follow at 11 AM at Northside Chapel, 12050 Crabapple Road, Roswell, Georgia. 30075.

In memory of Merrily Francis McLaughlin, the family asks that gifts be directed to the MERRILY MCLAUGHLIN AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND with Cherokee County Farm Bureau. Checks should be made payable to "Georgia Foundation for Agriculture" and mailed to: Georgia Foundation for Agriculture, 1620 Bass Rd Macon, GA 31210. Please note MERRILY MCLAUGHLIN AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND on the check memo line. You may also donate online by visiting: [www.gfb.ag/cherokeescholarship](http://www.gfb.ag/cherokeescholarship).

# Cemetery Details

## Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

## Funeral Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ We met Merrily through her sister Sara almost 20 years ago, since then we have been working as a cleaning services at her house. It was a big loss for us.

Merrily has always been a hard-working person with a passion for gardening and ready to help others.

We leave here our sincere condolences to the family and prayers that God comforts everyone at this difficult time.

Rodoval & Eliane

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Eliane Pereira - December 08, 2023 at 10:44 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Merrily Francis McLaughlin.



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December 08, 2023 at 10:21 AM

R)

“ Rodoval & Eliane ( Cleaning Services ) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Merrily Francis McLaughlin.

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Rodoval & Eliane ( Cleaning Services ) - December 08, 2023 at 10:21 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mrs. Merrily Francis McLaughlin.*



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December 07, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ *Jan and Tom Hammond and Family planted a <a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518">Memorial Tree</a> in honor of Mrs. Merrily Francis McLaughlin.*

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**Jan and Tom Hammond and Family** - December 07, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ *Merrily was kind, talented and loving. She was a great mother to her many dogs and devoted to every family member. She was always doing multiple jobs simultaneously even when she worked full time at Rockdale County Hospital. Merrily's love of gardening came from her mom. I remember her old house with the driveway lined with day lilies long before she became a master gardener and established her business. She helped me immeasurably when I was ill more than once. She knew questions to ask the doctors. I am eternally grateful for my former sister-in-law and on behalf of myself and my sons, she remains in our hearts with much love. Merrily was a blessing and will be forever missed.*



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**Jennifer Harris-Dunham** - December 06, 2023 at 11:02 PM

DM

“ I have known Merrily for over 20 years. We did shows together . In fact we were just at the Dunwoody United Methodist holiday show and spoke like we always do and caught up . I just found out about her passing. I just am so sad. She was a wonderful lady and will be forever missed . Prayers and love to her family and friends. In the vendor world she will be missed by so many as a bright light at our shows and all her yummy samples .

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**Denise Miller** - December 06, 2023 at 02:24 PM

JP

“ Saddened by your loss. While I never met Merrily she must have been a wonderful person, loved by many. May time bring you peace.

*Joe Pearson*

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**Joe Pearson** - December 05, 2023 at 10:01 AM

LP

“ <https://site.extension.uga.edu/chokeberry/2015/06/interview-series-merrily-gardens/>  
This is a really great interview done with Merrily from 2015 written by Josh Fuder.

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**Liz Porter** - December 01, 2023 at 04:58 PM

KS

“ John, you are in our prayers. Merrily was a wonderful woman and we will miss her. The Sperry family, Drew, Kim, Scott and Nicki

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**Kim Sperry** - December 01, 2023 at 03:51 PM

NW

“ Please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of your beloved Merrily. My sister and I will always remember her devotion to the North Metro Miracle League family, and her unwavering care of her husband John. Merrily, you will be sorely missed by the Marcus girls (Natalie Whitlow and Marilyn Marcus)

Natalie Whitlow - December 01, 2023 at 01:02 PM

MR

“ We could always depend on Merrily to support master gardener and garden club classes and projects throughout the years. Her home frequently was open to them. May you rest in peace, Merrily.

Mary Ellen Roos - November 29, 2023 at 01:51 PM

LK

I will miss those fun lunch meetings we had at Merrily's lovely home. We met as master gardeners. Every spring when a couple of beautiful lillies bloom in my yard, I will think of Merrily and smile. She was a generous, lovely Lady.

Lynn Knotts - December 01, 2023 at 09:43 AM

AD

Our family will miss Merrily a lot! She was always John's strong and silent support! She cared about the kids and the families, and the reason John was able to do so much for so many people was because of her unconditional support. She was always ready with any kind of volunteer work and her warm smile. No wonder she touched so many lives.

Anindita Dasgupta - December 01, 2023 at 02:53 PM

GC

RIP Merrily. Condolences to the family.

glynda crawford - December 01, 2023 at 10:10 PM

SF

*Merrily was my mentor when I joined the master garden program ...we continued to play in the dirt for the next 23 years. Our plant follies, gourmet food taste-testing and tramping around the property will remain in my heart forever. I have many blooming memories in my yard thanks to her. Her family was her world, and our heartfelt condolences go to you and yours John.*

*Susan and Ken Franklin*

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**susan franklin** - December 02, 2023 at 10:07 PM

SW

*We send our deepest sympathies to the family of Merrily McLaughlin. We are deeply saddened to hear of her passing. Around 2013 we started our daylily garden with her plants and named it Merrily's Lillies. In fact, one of the most spoken phrases at our house in the summer is, "I'm going out to water /weed Merrily's lillies". To this day they are still blooming and beautiful, as are our memories of her smile, kindness and positivity. She will be missed.*

*---John and Susan Wagner*

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**Susan Wagner** - December 03, 2023 at 12:45 PM

CH

*John, we are shocked and saddened to hear of Merrily's passing. We were friends with her in the Daylily Society of Greater Atlanta. Prayers for you and the family.*

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**Carolyn Herndon** - December 05, 2023 at 09:26 AM