



Mrs. Emma Laverne Farmer

October 3, 1932 - December 18, 2025

Emma Laverne Farmer of Swaengin died on December 18, 2025. She passed peacefully in her home at the age of 93 with her daughter Cindy and dog Brownie by her side. She is reunited in death with her husband John J. Farmer, son Gary Farmer, brothers David Ledford and Carl Ledford, sisters Gladys Bond and Ruth Kennamer, foster child James W. Smalley, and granddaughter Nicole Gaskin.

Known to her friends as Laverne, she spent her childhood in the Swaengin community on Gunter Mountain. After her marriage to John Farmer, Laverne made many homes in the U. S. and abroad, as the military took her growing family to Washington, Delaware, South Carolina, Tripoli, and the Philippines. Upon retiring from the Air Force, Laverne, John, and their three children returned to Swaengin, where John built the family home. They spent many happy years there, caring for the land and everything on it. She was an avid gardener and loved to share fresh fruits and vegetables with

friends

and neighbors. She was never idle, and enjoyed sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting,

and making intricate cut paper art. Always a teacher, she shared these skills with her

children and grandchildren, who will forever hear her voice when they try to sew a

straight seam or lose their stitch count while knitting. She loved to be outdoors, working

or simply enjoying the woods around her home, and she passed that love onto her

family. She cherished visits with her great-grandchildren, whether taking them to the

best blackberry patches or helping them find hidden treasures under the fairy rock, she

showed them that there is beauty everywhere just waiting to be found. Her home was a

second home and safe haven to nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, and no one ever

left with empty arms or an empty stomach.

Many of her neighbors remember her as Mrs. Farmer. In her 30 years as a Social

Studies teacher at the DAR school, she had the privilege of teaching generations of

children about the diverse places and cultures that she loved so dearly. No matter how

old they were or what they grew up to be, her students were always her kids, and she

never forgot a single one of them. Laverne was the first in her family to earn a college

degree, and she went on to attain a Master's and E.Ds. in elementary education. She valued education and learning, and she instilled those values in her family and students. Her patience and curiosity can be found in every one of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and countless students.

For the past twenty years, she cared for James W. Smalley, who came to her family as a foster child and remained with them until his death in February 2025. He was preceded in death by his mother Maude Smalley, father Emmett Smalley, foster mother Esther Ledford, and brothers Danny Joe Smalley and Russell Smalley. He is survived by his brother Ricky Smalley, and his foster family. Thanks to the help and care of her daughter, Laverne and James were able to spend their final years together in the Farmer family home.

The family would like to thank the Swearingin Volunteer Fire Department, Hospice of Alabama, Doctor White, Doctor Reed, and Doctor Hamidian, and their office staff. Their care and friendship were invaluable and will not be forgotten.

Laverne is survived by her sister Josie Johnson, daughter Cindy Skinner, sons Joe

Farmer and Dewey Farmer, granddaughters Layla Niemann, Robin Burns, and Amelia Skinner Saint, and great-grandchildren Kathryn Niemann, Liam Burns, Larken Saint, and Warren Saint, and her dog Brownie.

The family will hold a private memorial in 2026. Laverne would ask that no one “waste her trees” by sending cards or flowers but instead share their memories on her Life Tribute page. Friends may make a donation in her honor to the KDS DAR School at www.kdsdar.org/annual-fund.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ *She was one of my favorite teachers! Very inspiring person! So glad I was one of her students! Rest in Peace and prayers for the family.*

Sebrina Whitaker - December 23, 2025 at 06:33 PM

TC

“ *Ms. Farmer was a neighbor and my teacher many years ago! She held a special place in my heart! I wrote her a letter when I was her student letting her know how special she was and she saved the letter! She brought into the office several years ago and let me read it! That was a special day! I will forever remember her and her family! May God wrap his loving arms around each of you! Hold on to the precious memories that you all made! Prayers, Love and Hugs!*

Tracy Davis Cameron - December 23, 2025 at 12:22 AM

DD

“ *I never knew her in person but I knew “grandmo” through her granddaughters Layla and Amelia and through their mom Cindy. Through their stories and seeing who they are Mrs. Farmer was a fierce force of nature that leaves a legacy in the family she raised. Such an honor to know her through her granddaughters and to have grown up with them and seen what purely amazing women she gave this world! Love to the entire family.*

darrin davis - December 22, 2025 at 10:57 PM

JT

“ Ms. Farmer taught my children at DAR School when I served as high school principal. She was an excellent teacher and a caring teacher. Her children excelled academically and were always respectful. Mr. and Mrs. Farmer were excellent parents and served the school and community well.

Joe Teal - December 22, 2025 at 09:02 PM

VH

“ Mrs. Farmer was a teacher to me and my sister and lived here in our community throughout my years in Swearingin. She was very kind and had a passion for teaching. Loved and adored Mrs. Farmer.



Vicki Smith Hall - December 22, 2025 at 08:55 PM

PL

“ Mrs. Farmer was one of my favorite teachers! She made such a lasting impact on my life! Last time I saw her in Grant, I was so surprised she still called me by name. That made me so happy!! Prayers for her family. She was truly a special lady.

Pam Leonard - December 22, 2025 at 08:33 PM

LW

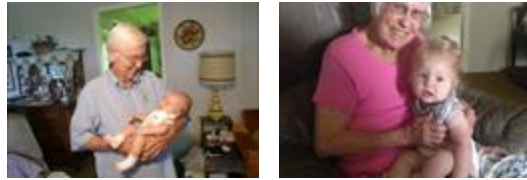
“ Mrs Farmer was one of my elementary teachers. She was responsible for our field trip where we rode a train to Huntsville and visited The Space and Rocket Center. Years later I was a substitute teacher for her classes and ended up teaching on the same faculty with her at DAR. It was always a pleasure to be in her presence and learn from her. My deepest condolences to her family.



Lisa Wright - December 22, 2025 at 08:21 PM

AS

“ 2 files added to the album Laverne Farmer



Amelia Saint - December 22, 2025 at 05:08 PM

MT

“ I taught with Mrs. Farmer at DAR. She was a wonderful teacher and a sweet friend to me. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Martha Steele Tingle - December 22, 2025 at 12:10 PM

KK

“ Mrs .. Farmer was my teacher she made a lifelong impact on my life ... Rest in Peace sweet friend!!!

Kim Kirkland - December 22, 2025 at 11:31 AM

AT

I can still hear Mrs. Farmer saying, “Don’t waste my trees!” She held her students to a high standard & expected nothing but our best. I loved her for teaching so many “life lessons” & having real conversations with her students. I hope she knew the impact that she made on so many! ❤️

Ashley Franks Traylor - December 22, 2025 at 01:12 PM