



## Jan O'Neill

November 30, 1943 - October 16, 2025

Janice “Jan” W. O’Neill, 81, passed away peacefully on October 16, 2025. She was born in Nashville, Georgia, on November 30, 1943, and spent her early years growing up around the Jacksonville area. Jan attended grammar school there before moving on to Clay County High School and Englewood High, where she graduated.

After high school, Jan began her career with Prudential Life Insurance, where she worked for nearly a decade. She later moved to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida, proudly earning her degree in social science. Not long after, she and her family made their home in Trenton, Florida, where Jan found her true calling as a teacher.

For 38 years, Jan devoted her heart and energy to teaching science and social studies at Bell High School, Chiefland High School, and the Levy Learning Academy. She also taught GED and adult education classes in the evenings with Central Florida Community College and summer school with Levy County Schools. Her passion for helping students succeed was evident both inside and outside the classroom. Over the years, she served as sponsor for several student organizations, including JV cheerleading, Beta Club, and Senior Class.

Jan was also active in her community, serving with the American Business

Women's Association and Junior Achievement. In 1993-94, her dedication and love for education were recognized when she was named Teacher of the Year for both Chiefland High School and the School Board of Levy County.

Jan's hobbies included gardening, playing bridge, cheering for the Florida Gators, and avidly supporting the Gilchrist County Republican Party.

Jan will be remembered for her kindness, her sense of humor, and the way she inspired generations of students to learn and believe in themselves.

She is survived by her daughters, Kelly (Shannon) Varnes and Darby Allen; grandchildren Tristan (Caleigh) Allen, Sydney (Shawn) Pettingill, Blane Varnes, and Regan Varnes; great-grandchild Evelyn Pettingill; and brothers Dewey Williamson and Allen (Marty) Williamson.

Arrangements have been placed under the care of the Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland Chapel, with locations in Cross City 352-498-5400 and Chiefland 352-493-0050.