



Helen Tyler Terry Wood
September 20, 1932 – March 12, 2026

Tyler Wood passed away March 12th after complications from a hip fracture and dementia. She was 93.

Tyler was born in Huntsville, AL on Sept. 20, 1932 to Laura Lanier Caldwell Terry and Ira Milton Terry. She also lived for many years in Denver, Colorado and Florence, Alabama.

She attended Gulf Park Preparatory School/College in Gulf Park, Mississippi for 11th and 12th grades and was selected as Madison County Maid of Cotton in 1950. She also attended Mount Vernon Junior College in Washington, DC for one year.

Tyler was very active in her community, serving as a Sunday school teacher and Meals on Wheels volunteer. She served as president of the Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Symphony Junior Guild. She was a Colorado regent for Mount Vernon Junior College, a poll worker, a school room mother and Cub Scout den mother, a member of the Junior League and the Grace Club and a caretaker for her mother for seven years.

She enjoyed traveling, gardening, collecting antiques and playing bridge with friends. She participated with friends in beach trips, home tours, jazz festivals and high school luncheons. One of her jobs as a young woman was as a card dealer at the Holly Tree Camp, a hunting and fishing club for gentlemen on Paint Rock River in Jackson County.

Tyler is survived by daughter, Laura Lee Demmons (Doug), son Tom Dyer (Faye); four grandchildren, Kathryn Caldwell Wagner (Lorin), Tyler Dyer (Courtney), Olivia Quick (Alex) and Anthony Demmons; and three great grandchildren, Emily Wagner, Evan Wagner and Livie Dyer.

She was married to her junior high/high school sweetheart James Martin Dyer for 35 years and subsequently to devoted husband, Jack Randolph Wood of Florence, AL for 29 years. She was pre-deceased by her older sister, Mary Alice Yarbrough.

It is hoped that everyone has/had a mother like ours. She was everything you'd hope to have.

She was the kind of mother that flew to Mexico when her daughter went on her summer Spanish study program to make sure the family she was staying with met her approval.

When you brought a guest over for a meal, she would make an index card with their likes and dislikes to ensure she was well prepared for their next meal.

She welcomed every boyfriend with enthusiasm equal to her daughter's, (although there were many she shouldn't have) 😊

She always encouraged travel, starting with allowing her daughter at the age of 15 to go out of the country with neither of her parents. Many trips in the US and abroad were taken together which are precious memories.

She cooked steak for breakfast when it was the day in high school to take the ACT.

She was the one to make sure the family got together at home or eating out. She loved cooking for family and one could expect no less than five dessert choices.

Her children's and grandchildren's projects became her projects that she would embrace.

She was always there in times of need, driving hours to provide both planned and unplanned child care.

And she was the one who showed her daughter all her life how to mother.

In her final years she was the role model for embracing major changes in life. At age 90, she had to part with almost all her furnishings, her house, her town, her friends, family nearby and did so with an unbelievable degree of grace. In her new home in Birmingham, she continued to share her joy of life every day.

Multiple employees from her assisted living residence would say how funny she was, how she would brighten their days and she was just the kind of person you loved having around. One of the residents talked about how when she first came to the assisted living residence, she didn't know anyone and was very uneasy about how things would be there. Mom came up to her and said "You come over here and sit with us." and made her feel welcome. Even in the short one

mile ride from the hospital to the rehabilitation center, she conveyed her natural charm, with the EMT voicing, "I just love your Mom."

The week before she died, a nursing assistant came talked about what a joy she was – how she would rave about their orange juice that it had to be the best in the world. She said she also talked about her life, her home, her family and friends and said what a good life she had had.

She lived to enjoy children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren. She lived to marry Jack, who lovingly took care of her and was concerned for her through his very last day. His sons welcomed Mom into their special events and every day lives, continuing to visit her in Birmingham and sending cards and letters.

In her last days when she couldn't even turn herself over in her bed, she was still asking "What can I do for you?". That was so her.

In the Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life", the angel Clarence says, "Strange isn't it. Each man's life touches so many other lives." This mother had so many family members, relatives, friends and strangers whose lives she beautifully touched in her bountiful 93 years.

A Celebration of Life was held August 8th at which a true southern lady was bid farewell by family and friends. And as the Nat King Cole song says in his song, "Unforgettable, forever, that's how you'll stay".