



Laura Fleshman

February 10, 1932 - May 10, 2025

Mrs. Laura Pickett Fleshman was born on February 10, 1932, in Camden, South Carolina. She was the daughter of the late John Arthur and Tena Davis Pickett.

After graduating from Benedict College with her degree in education, she moved to Elloree, SC where she lovingly taught elementary students at Elloree Training

School. In 1956, the teachers were given an ultimatum to sign an oath against the NAACP. Laura was among 21 teachers who refused to do so and left their jobs. After this act of courage, she moved to New York City where she met and

married the late Gilbert Fleshman of Charleston, West Virginia. From this union came one daughter, Sharon.

In addition to being a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend, Laura also received much fulfillment from serving and advocating for her home care clients

as a caseworker with the New York City Department of Social Services. After retiring, she and her husband moved to Columbia, South Carolina and joined Northminster Presbyterian Church (USA). She embraced both biological and

extended family and was affectionately known as “Aunt Laura.”

She is preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert Fleshman, her sisters, Nola Smith, Kathleen Thomas, and Tena Foye, and her brothers, Willie Pickett, Joseph Pickett, Alvin Pickett, Carter Missouri and Clarence Missouri.

Those left to cherish fond memories are her daughter, Sharon Fleshman, two sisters-in-law, Betty Missouri and Gloria Missouri, and a host of loving nephews, nieces, and friends.

Laura leaves a legacy of faith, joy, generosity, courage and abundant love.

Other giving options in lieu of flowers are listed below based on Laura’s affiliations and interests

AARP Foundation:

<https://foundation.aarp.org/site/Donation/make-gift-search>

Benedict College:

<https://benedict.edu/give/online-giving/>

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Cemetery Details

Florence National Cemetery

803 East National Cemetery Rd
Florence, SC

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 16. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223

A Celebration of Life

MAY 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

Northminster Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
6717 David Street
Columbia, SC 29203

Interment

MAY 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Florence National Cemetery
803 East National Cemetery Rd
Florence, SC

Tribute Wall

SP

“ From David and Sheila Pendarvis
Aunt Laura was beautiful, smart, wise, funny and so much more.
We are grateful to have been blessed to be in her presence over the
years. To JJ, Myra, Sharon and all of her loved ones, we know this
is difficult. We continue to lift you all in prayer.

sheila pendarvis - May 16, 2025 at 08:09 PM

AW

“ Anne W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laura Fleshman.

Anne W. - May 16, 2025 at 04:28 PM

YA

“ Dear Aunt Laura words cannot express how much you mean to me
for 69 years you never forgot a birthday card you were one of the
best I'm going to miss our laughs a long phone calls and you always
been there for all your nieces and nephews you will be missed but
never forgotten say hello to our entire family while you're there we
all love you but my heart is broken 93 years job well done our
Queen

Yvonne Anderson - May 15, 2025 at 06:50 PM

JA

“ Joe and JoJo Austin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Laura Fleshman.



Joe and JoJo Austin - May 15, 2025 at 04:36 PM

JA

“ Joe and JoJo Austin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laura Fleshman.

Joe and JoJo Austin - May 15, 2025 at 04:36 PM

FC

“ Fellowship of Women Clergy purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Laura Fleshman.



Fellowship of Women Clergy - May 15, 2025 at 02:22 AM

FC

“ Fellowship of Women Clergy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laura Fleshman.

Fellowship of Women Clergy - May 15, 2025 at 02:22 AM

DH

“ I met Mrs. Fleshman when her daughter Dr. Sharon Fleshman was ordained as a minister at The Baptist Worship Center Church in Philadelphia. She beamed with so much pride and joy to see her daughter celebrated and elevated for her commitment and faithfulness in the Lord's church. Mrs. Fleshman's excellence as a mother, mentor and educator was reflected best in her daughter and the countless lives that she touched. Dr. Millicent Hunter

Dr. Millicent Hunter - May 14, 2025 at 09:32 PM

WT

“ I will miss the Aunt Laura stories that her niece, Carolyn tells. May she rest in eternal peace.



Wendy T - May 14, 2025 at 08:35 PM

GF

“ Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.



Gloria Harrison Brown and Family - May 14, 2025 at 08:32 PM

DT

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire family. I will miss your sense of humor& our laughter together. Why you left so soon? We were going to have lunch together, but God had other plans for you
Dorothy Thompson & family

Dorothy Thompson - May 14, 2025 at 05:29 PM