



Sara Carter Fowler

August 24, 1947 - June 28, 2025

Sara Carter Fowler, affectionately known as “Nena” to just about everyone (“Mena” to her grandchildren) passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, June 28, 2025. It was Liberty Day in her lifelong hometown of Columbiana, which felt just right somehow: a celebration of love and friendship with neighbors capped off by patriotic fireworks for a woman who lit up every room and heart she entered.

Born on August 24, 1947, Nena was the daughter of Rux and Jane Carter. She was a proud graduate of Shelby County High School and a loyal alumna of Auburn University.

Nena was a teacher in every sense of the word. As a mom, she taught her three adoring children about the love of Jesus, the lyrics to every single Barry Manilow song, and everything in between. Professionally she taught in elementary classrooms and devoted many years to remedial education supporting students who needed a little extra care and attention. When her kids were young, she also led the children’s choir at Columbiana United Methodist Church. With Grummy (her mother) by her side on the piano, she taught songs of praise to the youngest of worshippers (even before they could read) using homemade posters illustrated with hand-drawn pictures and glued-on embellishments. It was creative, chaotic, and utterly Nena.

Nena spent the last 26 years loving her devoted husband, Don Fowler, who was her partner in every way. Whether it was blessing a meal, remodeling their home, or embarking on a Cajun adventure, they did it together.

Along with Don, Nena is survived by her children, Rux Bentley (Amanda), Amy Bentley, and Casey Bentley (Danette); her stepsons, Clay Fowler and Greg Fowler; and her five beloved grandchildren: Maddie Bentley, McKlane Bentley, Addison Bentley, Braden Bentley, and Isabella Fowler. She also leaves behind her loving sisters Kathy Carter and Judy Roberts (Sam), and a host of extended family and friends whom she dearly loved.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rux and Jane Carter, and her sister Carolyn Carter.

For those who were lucky enough to know her, it will come as no surprise that Nena did not want a funeral or any “fuss” to commemorate her passing. If you'd like to honor her, her family encourages you to give your dog an extra hug, watch and share a Brenda Gantt cooking video on Facebook, dance to “Copacabana,” sing a song with your kids about the love of Jesus, or drink an ice-cold Diet Coke on the beach.

If you would like to make a more formal gesture of remembrance, please consider making a donation in Nena's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

CA

“ *carissacook113@icloud.com lit a candle in memory of Sara Fowler*



carissacook113@icloud.com - July 21, 2025 at 09:59 PM

CA

“ *I'm so sorry. Your family is in my prayers.*



carissacook113@icloud.com - July 21, 2025 at 09:52 PM

DW

“ *Daniel Walton lit a candle in memory of Sara Fowler*



Daniel Walton - July 12, 2025 at 10:50 AM

KS

“ I’ve known her for many years but became special friends as we shared a seat in the alto section in choir. I grew to love her and she will always be Mrs Buckwheat to me. Ask Don! 😊 😊. We also spent a few trips to cheer camp as we were both cheer coaches. I had big shoes to fill when I followed her as children’s choir director at CUMC. She left many treasures. I will be sure to hug my pups ❤️. I love you all ❤️🙏

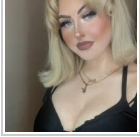


Karen Sweeney - July 04, 2025 at 08:02 PM

PS

“ Nena was a special lady. She was smart witty, & had a good sense of humor. She will be missed greatly by many. Her family is in our thoughts & prayers.

Pat & Frostue Shaw - July 04, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ nena was my next door neighbor throughout my childhood. i found out she passed today and it was such a rush of emotion. i think nena was the first person to treat me like a regular person and not just a little kid. she was purely magical. she was iconic. when i was really young she had a weeping willow in her front yard and i was mesmerized by it. she'd come sit outside under it and i would tell her how badly i wanted to live under it. when it died and needed to be cut down i cried. i remember picking the beautiful flowers from the bushes in her front yard. i think they were blue hydrangeas. she had a back yard full of wisteria, some of my favorite flowers because of that to this day. she knew so much about them, a lot about everything. i remember having picnics with her and her showing me all her cool things. once i had a school project on mexico and she took me inside and showed me the most beautiful jewelry and let me bring it to school (i was 9) and display it with my poster. i felt so trusted. she always made me feel seen. once we dog sat for her and tried to steal her dog (only jokes but we loved him as much as she did) and when i read this i looked at my mom and said “she’s with trooper”. it was a pleasure to grow up next door to her.

Samantha Wheeler - July 04, 2025 at 12:43 AM