



## Margaret Ellen Ritter

September 2, 1929 - November 22, 2025

Margaret Ellen Jones Ritter, 96, formerly of Pendleton County, passed away peacefully on November 22, 2025, at the Willows at Hamburg in Lexington, Kentucky. Born on September 2, 1929, she was the beloved daughter of the late Rufus and Frances Wigglesworth Jones.

A devoted educator, Margaret dedicated 28 years to the Pendleton County School System, where her commitment to excellence touched countless lives. Over the course of her distinguished career, she was honored with numerous prestigious awards, including Kentucky Education Teacher of the Year by KY Consumer Finance (1981–1982), Teacher of the Year for Northern Kentucky (1979, 1988, and 1992), Exemplary Teacher by the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce (1985), and recognition as National Teacher of the Year. Her passion for teaching extended far beyond the classroom, shaping both her students and her community.

Margaret also played a vital role in community service. She helped organize the Pendleton County AARP Chapter and served as its president for eight years. Her dedication and leadership were further acknowledged with the James Griffin Community Involvement Award in 1993, a testament to her steadfast commitment to the people of Pendleton County.

A woman of deep faith, Margaret was an active member of Falmouth Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for many years and participated in the Baptist Women's Association. Her kindness, generosity, and unwavering belief in service were hallmarks of both her spiritual and personal life.

Margaret loved being part of the Pendleton County community and took great pride in every role she embraced. She will be remembered for her gentle strength, her lifelong dedication to education, and the profound impact she made on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Her legacy lives on in the hearts of her family, friends, former students, and the community she so dearly cherished.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years Will Ritter in 2016, as well as her brother and sister-in-law Clarence and Janice Jones, and son-in-law Ronald Mills.

She is survived by her daughter Deborah Mills; son Michael (LaDonna) Ritter; sister Joyce (James) Crigler, and granddaughter Sarah (Caleb) Patterson, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services for Margaret will be held on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 1 PM at the Woodhead Funeral Home in Falmouth, KY. Visitation will precede the service from 11AM-1PM, and interment will be at the Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Falmouth Baptist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

409 Ridgeway Avenue  
Falmouth, KY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 26. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Woodhead Funeral Homes, Memorials & Cremation Service - Falmouth  
310 W. Shelby Street  
Falmouth, KY 41040  
(859) 654-3306  
office@woodheadfuneralhome.com

## Funeral Service

NOV 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Woodhead Funeral Homes, Memorials & Cremation Service - Falmouth  
310 W. Shelby Street  
Falmouth, KY 41040  
(859) 654-3306  
office@woodheadfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Woodhead Funeral Homes, Memorials, & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret Ellen Ritter*



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**Woodhead Funeral Home** - November 26, 2025 at 10:44 AM

BD

“ *Debbie and Mike,  
We always enjoyed visiting with your mother at Cedar Ridge. She and Will were my neighbors when I grew up in Falmouth. She had such a pleasant southern voice that was nice to listen to. God bless you in the loss of your mother.  
Bill and Janice (Kearns) Doan  
Wilmington, NC*

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**Bill and Janice Doan** - November 28, 2025 at 07:14 PM

AN

“ *Mrs.Ritter was the best teacher I knew. She was so dedicated to her students. We won 2nd place in Deca when we went to the new Northern Kentucky University. She was so excited. My memories of her are forever lasting. Condolences to her family, friends and former students.*

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**Anonymous** - November 25, 2025 at 10:41 PM

JG

*She was a great teacher and a beautiful human being. She inspired all of who were in her classes to be the best version of ourselves.*

**Judith Campbell Ged** - November 26, 2025 at 10:45 PM

TF

“ *The Brooks Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret Ellen Ritter.*

**The Brooks Family** - November 24, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Margaret Ellen Ritter.*



November 24, 2025 at 12:44 PM

DA

“ *"Maw Ritter"; as she was affectionately referred to, was a tremendous teacher and all around wonderful woman. She truly was one of the most impactful persons I had the pleasure of learning from during my high school years and beyond. God bless her family during this time.*

**Doug Ashcraft** - November 23, 2025 at 06:36 PM

RH

“ *May God bless this family and give them comfort in their time of need. Brother Richard D. Halcomb Jr, family, and Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church of Campbell county Kentucky.*

**Richard Halcomb,Jr.** - November 23, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ Not one day in my life has gone by since being a little girl that i have not used something she taught me. We were also neighbors. Then I had the privilege to be taught by her in Distributive Education for three years. During those years we traveled to Chicago and Los Angeles together for DECA conventions. She would tell me to straighten my shoulders and keep my head up! I loved her dearly and know that Heaven could not welcome any better Angel.

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**Lavonna Renfro** - November 22, 2025 at 09:20 PM