



Adner Elizabeth "Libby" Gillian

December 7, 1953 - June 15, 2026

Adner Elizabeth Wilford Gillean, "Libby", 72 went home to heaven on June 15, 2026

surrounded by family at the hospital in Madison, FL.

She was born in Jacksonville, FL, on December 7, 1953, to Eppinger Robert and Millie Lee (Bennett) Wilford. She was raised in the Mandarin community as number 13 of 16 children to Epp and Millie. She was proud to be known as one of the Wilford girls! Her family is a part of the original group to form Mandarin Baptist Church as the newly forming congregation would gather in her daddy's fruit and vegetable stand alongside of State Road 13.

They faithfully attended Mandarin Baptist Church where she accepted Christ as her

Savior and met her sweetheart and love of her life, Michael Alva Gillean. She would go

on to graduate from Wolfson High School Class of 1971. They were set to marry directly

after graduation, but Rev. Pearl advised them to wait a year, so they waited until July

15, 1972. They enjoyed 53 years together. In 1978, together with family and friends they

helped start Fruit Cove Baptist at the Switzerland Fire Department. They moved from

Mandarin to Fruit cove in 1980 where they resided for 40 years until retiring to

their

family farm in Madison, FL.

Libby started her working career at Gordon Thompson Chevrolet in finance.

But her real

career was to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. She was the true

Proverbs 31

woman. Along with raising two children, she was team mom, class mom,

Sunday school

teacher, church volunteer, and Aunt Libby to everyone. She was known as the

best

Wednesday night supper cook in the history of Wednesday night suppers at

Fruit Cove

Baptist. She loved caring for her friends and family! Libby was the glue that

held all

things together, even in times of distress. She, along with her siblings cared

for their

Daddy during his battle with lung cancer and their mama during her long battle

with

Alzheimer's.

Libby voluntarily kept the financial records for Fruit Cove Baptist Church for

countless

years until the church convinced her it needed to be a paid position. Libby

officially

started full time employment at Fruit Cove in 1995 and worked there until she

retired in

2020 as the Office Manager and Pastor's Assistant. She continued to

volunteer in all

areas of the church including cooking for families, pre-school choir, mom-to-

mom, VBS,

and any other "job" that needed doing. Despite many health trials, Mike and

Libby

remained steadfast in their love and faith in Jesus Christ.

Family and friends who she claimed as family were the heart of all of Libby's activities.

Family time was spent on the Julington Creek and the St. Johns River boating,

vacations to the beach and mountains, trips to visit family, family reunions on the lake,

and countless pool parties. Libby enjoyed hosting, she was the original "hostess with

the mostest". A cook that was second to none, she always had a full table and very few

leftovers! She often hosted the family gatherings for celebrations. Her and Mike enjoyed

opening their home as it was usually the gathering place for many holiday celebrations,

Christmas parties, baby and bridal showers, and any other excuse for a get-together!

She connected the love of Christ with so many people through her life of serving others.

As much as Libby loved her children, her love for her Grandchildren might have

surpassed it. Zachary, Braxton, Hudson, Beckett, Cannon, and Kennedy could make

her smile like none other!

Libby was preceded in death by her husband Michael Gillean, her parents Eppinger

Robert and Millie Lee (Bennett) Wilford, her brother Bobby, her sisters Francis, Jean,

and Arlene.

She is survived by her daughter Julie Ann Townsend and her husband Brian of Madison, FL Her son, Michael Todd Gillean, and his wife, Lauren, of Fruit Cove, Florida. Her grandchildren, Zachary Brian (Bailey Hackle), Braxton Robert, Hudson Wood, Beckett Todd, Cannon Lee, and Kennedy Rose. Her brothers and sisters, Barbara, Ruth, Gerdie, Millie, Linda, Henry, Lock, Bill, Boo, Anna, and Patty. Her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Andrea, Chuck, Pat, Larry, Glenn, Dave, Vicki, Elaine, and Bob. She is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins and family friends.

The family would like to honor her life with the following:

~Celebration of Life, Fruit Cove, FL

Fruit Cove Baptist Church

501 SR 13

St. Johns, FL 32359

June 19, 2026

Visitation at 5:00 pm

Service at 6:00 pm

Local Fruit Cove Florist: Southern Grace Fresh Floral Market

~Funeral, Madison, FL

First Baptist Church of Madison

134 SW Meeting Street

Madison, FL 32340

June 20, 2026

Visitation at 9:30 am

Service at 11:00 am

~Graveside to follow at Concord Baptist Church Local Madison Florist: The

Madison Florist.

Memories and condolences may be shared at beggsfuneral.com. Beggs
Funeral Home, Madison, Florida (850) 973-2258.

Cemetery Details

Concord Cemetery

787 NW Concord Church Rd.
Greenville, FL 32331

Upcoming Events

Funeral Service

JUN 20. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (est)

First Baptist Church
134 SW Meeting Ave
Madison, FL 32340-2024
(850) 973-2547