



Opal Stephenson

August 24, 1924 - January 16, 2013

Opal Whitten Stephenson died Wednesday, January 16, 2013, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. A memorial service at First United Methodist Church will be announced later.

Opal was born August 24, 1924, to Archie and Maudie Allen Whitten, near Somerville. She graduated from Cotaco High School at the age of 15 and attended Athens College where she worked her way through college at the local hosiery mill. She finished college at the age of 19 and went to work with TVA in Muscle Shoals.

Later she was transferred to TVA in Chattanooga where she met Robert J. Stephenson. They were married and moved to Fort Myers Beach where they lived for ten years before settling in Sebring, FL. She moved to Decatur and lived at Cedar Springs for the last five years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, R. J. Stephenson, her stepson, R. J. "Bobby" Stephenson, Jr., and six siblings, Novie Childers, Mary Doss, J. C. Whitten, Lester Whitten, Irene Sharp, and Gladys Sharp.

One legacy Opal has provided is the path she opened for her nieces and nephews. Most of them have gone on to get a good education and much credit should be given to Opal for she was the first female in her family to

strive for a better education. She continued to be interested in the younger generation and attended many of their performances and celebrations.

Ms. Stephenson is survived by one stepdaughter, Beverly Hudson; four step-grandchildren, David Hudson, Guy Hudson, Anne Hudson, and Todd Bickerstaff; seven step-great-grandchildren; two step-great-great-grandchildren; and 10 nephews and nieces, Charles Whitten, Ronald Whitten, Ken Whitten, Ramona Dennis, Verona Wilbanks, Patricia Callahan, Shelia Province, Bobby Sharp, Dru Gambrell, and Dean Turney.

Opal was a member of First United Methodist Church and of Wesley Fellowship Sunday School Class. She was also a member of TVA Retirees Association.

The family would like to thank USA Healthcare, Dr. Rudy Guess, and the nurses of Fourth Floor North at Decatur Morgan Hospital for all the loving care given to Opal and her family.

Memorial donations may be sent to First United Methodist Church, 805 Canal Street, N.E., Decatur, AL 35601.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *The family of Jefferson Davis and Mary Clarissa Whitten Taylor respectfully offer our sympathy for your great loss. It was my intention to find Mrs. Opal before her death and share with her many old family photos and a special calling card I have in my possession that belonged to her father. I regret not being able to meet her. From what I have read, she was a wonderful person and loved dearly by everyone.*



Melissa Mote Suits - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Mrs. Opal was a wonderful Lady, She was such a blessing to know and call your friend. She had a contagious fun loving spirit about her that made everyone around her share the joy of laughter. For her friends here at Cedar Springs she was a true lady and a loving part of our Family , she will be missed, but never forgotten. Rest in Peace Mrs. Opal ...Until we meet again... Your Cedar Springs Family*



Lou Ellen Neuss/ Cedar Springs Senior Campus - January 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM