



## Anita Ratcliff Odom

October 27, 1932 - December 14, 2011

Anita Ratcliff Odom, 79, of Laurel, died Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

A graveside service will be conducted by Dr. Randy Turner of First Baptist Church at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 17, in Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Odom was born October 27, 1932 in Laurel, MS. She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church in Laurel and a former Sunday School teacher of the Junior High Girls Class.

She graduated from Laurel High School and served as an executive secretary to her late husband William Harold "Shorty" Odom for more than 50 years.

She was a member of the Nahoula Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Docents of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. Mrs. Odom enjoyed an association with Northeast Jones High School from its inception in 1965, serving as PTO president several times, and was an active part of NEJ Alumni Association Scholarship Committee. She devoted her life to her husband, daughters, and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of almost 60 years, Harold Odom; her mother, Clara Ratcliff; and one granddaughter, Mary Georgia Brown.

Survivors include her three daughters and two sons-in-law, Cynthia Odom Rice and David L. Rice, III of Laurel; Barbara Louise Odom of Laurel; Kathryn Odom Brown and Cecil DeMorris Brown, Jr. of London, England; six grandchildren, William Bailey Rice and wife Ashley of Clinton, Andrew George Rice of Nashville, TN, Annalee Aultman Rice Patrick and husband Chad of Laurel, Cecil DeMorris Brown III of New York, Chester Odom Brown of

Memphis, TN, and Kathryn Ratcliff Brown Law and husband Simon of London; one great grandchild, MaryCollis Malone Patrick, one brother, Leroy Ratcliff and wife Kate, one brother-in-law, Clyde La Barron Odom; one sister-in-law, Melissa Odom Ridgway; and special care-givers at Brookwood Villa in Waynesboro, MS.

Serving as pallbearers will be her grandsons and grandson-in-law, her nephew Charles Terry Odom, and neighbors Scott Livingston and West Moss. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations to the Northeast Jones Alumni Scholarship fund, 68 Northeast Drive, Laurel, MS 39443. Memory Chapel is in charge of the service.

# Tribute Wall

VC

“ *SINCERE CONDOLENCES*

-----  
**VIRGIL R. COLEY** - December 27, 2011 at 06:25 PM

SB

“ *I was saddened by the loss of your mom during the holidays. May prayers are with you all. Love and thoughts of a grand lady, Sharon*

-----  
**Sharon Barham** - December 17, 2011 at 09:01 AM

CH

“ *Remembering All of You In the Loss of Your Mother and Grandmother. I Still "See' Her as a Lovely Lady..May You Be So Aware of God's Presence in these Difficult Days...Prayerfully, Charles Hudson*

-----  
**Charles Hudson** - December 16, 2011 at 06:04 PM

LL

“ *I will always remember your beautiful smile and what a kind loving person you were.*

-----  
**Linda Littleto** - December 15, 2011 at 09:30 PM

HC

“ *I will miss my best friend and never forget all the times we shared. So long old friend. Hilda*

-----  
**Hilda Grace Pope Crowder** - December 15, 2011 at 05:14 PM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Odom family and friends. Shorty, Nita and all of the family were friends of mine. A tremendous loss for the entire community. She was a "Lady".

---

**Stan Hoven** - December 15, 2011 at 05:13 PM

LC

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I lost Mom a few days after Christmas nine years ago. Christmas will never be the same. Moms are special and your Mother was very special. All of you will be in my thoughts and prayers.

---

**Linda Jimison Christian** - December 15, 2011 at 03:03 PM