



## Edna Lee Rowell McClellan

October 31, 1938 - April 16, 2020

Edna Lee Rowell McClellan, a spunky, little dark-haired girl, was born to Bennie Albert Rowell and Willa Ruth Thomas Rowell on Halloween 1938 in Heidelberg, Mississippi. She graduated in 1956 from Heidelberg High School where she was a cheerleader, played drums in the band, and was an All-District basketball player. She earned an Intensive Business Training Certification from Jones County Junior College and worked as an administrative assistant and bookkeeper in Laurel, Heidelberg, and New Orleans.

Mrs. McClellan and her husband, William Furman McClellan, Jr. were the first couple to get married in the Philadelphia United Methodist Church parsonage on May 25, 1957. Although they briefly lived in New Orleans, Virginia Beach, and Hattiesburg, the McClellans lived most of their lives among family and friends in Heidelberg where Mrs. McClellan excelled at music, crafts, and arts. In addition to playing piano, particularly church songs, Mrs. McClellan made beautiful birthday and wedding cakes, sewed most of her family's clothes, created unique quilts often with Bible themes, crocheted ornaments and blankets, and crafted exquisite ceramic creations.

Mrs. McClellan, known as Granny or Aunt Edna by many who loved her, is preceded in death by her precious daughter Janice Kay McClellan, her parents B. A. and Willa Ruth Rowell, and her sister Bennie Ruth Rowell

Newcomb. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of nearly 63 years William Furman McClellan, Jr., her daughter and son-in-law Tammy and Ray Laakso, the grandchildren she loved to spoil and their spouses Sarah and Grant Ollenburger, Paul and Whitney Laakso, and Lauren and Oliver Navo, her two great grandsons Easton Laakso and Cole Ollenburger, and her soon-to-be-born third great grandchild. Granny loved her babies!

Although Mrs. McClellan was a life-long member of Philadelphia United Methodist church and her father was on the board when the present church was built, the current Corona-virus shelter-in-place order and the fact that the church was hit by the Easter day tornado leaves grave-side services as the only option. Services for Mrs. McClellan will be Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Philadelphia United Methodist Church Cemetery. For friends and family who want to attend the service virtually, it will be live streamed on the Philadelphia United Methodist Church Jasper county site at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 18, 2020. Her family would like to thank all the people who have supported her and William throughout her illness. To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Philadelphia Methodist Church  
3785 MS-528  
Heidelberg, MS 39439

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Tammy so sorry for your loss we weren't part of the family long but we loved the whole family we loved aunt Edna and uncle William. Didn't know this till Saturday uncle Freddie told us. Praying for your family. Darlene. Blackburn. Charlene Cook. Thomas. Holifield and Sarah. Hodge. Laverns kids. Bennies step kids.

darlene blackburn - April 20, 2020 at 11:06 AM

MM

“ Tammy, I am so sorry for your family's loss. I will never forget the good times we had at your home when we were young. Keeping you in my prayers.

Megan Gavin McMullan - April 20, 2020 at 10:39 AM

LW

“ Tammy, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. She was such a precious lady. I have many memories of you and I during our school days, and your mom was always there for you. I will keep your dad and you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. Love you my friend!! Lynetta Zeagler Welch

Lynetta Zeagler Welch - April 19, 2020 at 11:22 AM

LR

“ I have always been so happy to be a friend and a part of Edna's family. Growing up in the Philadelphia community everyone is family if one family hurts we all hurt. William and Tammy know I am always here to help out in any way. I love you all with all my heart. Tish Risher

Letitia Risher - April 17, 2020 at 10:24 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



lauren navo - April 17, 2020 at 06:37 PM

LA

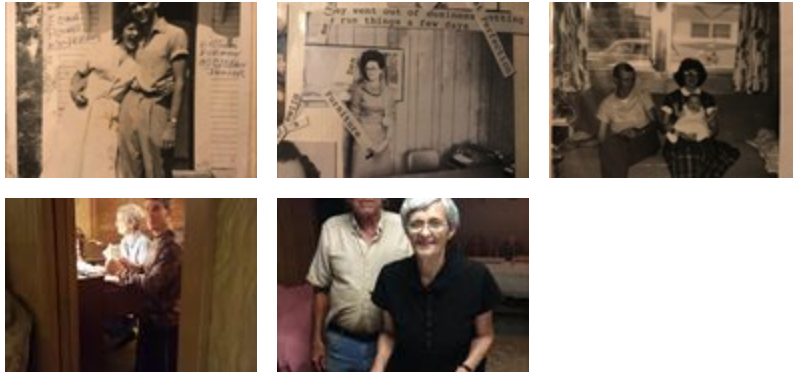
“ 1 file added to the album Granny



Lauren - April 17, 2020 at 06:07 PM

LA

“ 33 files added to the album Granny



Lauren - April 17, 2020 at 06:05 PM