



# Mary Jo Wedgeworth

December 30, 1924 - April 15, 2022

Mary Jo Wedgeworth died April 15, 2022, surrounded by loving family peacefully at home.

Mary Jo Morgan Wedgeworth

97 years old

Born December 30, 1924

Married to Hilman Wedgeworth for 67 years

Preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Emmie Jo Meeks Morgan; brothers, Hollis, Thomas (Marge), Preston (Gert), Charlie (Delores), Vernon (Narcissa), Ben (Gay), Donald (JoAnn); and son-in-law, Dan Miller.

Survived by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, James (Jane) Wedgeworth, Marsha (Chuck) Blackburn, Karen Miller; grandchildren, Mary Morgan (Paul) Ketchel, Chad (Hillary) Blackburn, Brandi Jane (Jason) Graham, Marsha (Drew)Hunter, Chip (Madalyn) Wedgeworth, David (Abbi) Wedgeworth, McKensie Miller; brothers, Howard (Eloise) Morgan, Roy (Barbara) Morgan, Marion (Elaine) Morgan; sixteen great grandchildren; and a host of beloved nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Wedgeworth was a lifelong resident of Laurel, MS. During her youth, she was the 1944 Winner of the National 4-H Club Girl Achievement award and

the President's trophy. This was awarded to her at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, IL.

She continued to be an active participant in Mississippi 4-H Club programs serving in numerous leadership roles and always serving as a local 4-H club leader. She served on the Mississippi 4-H Club board and as president of the Mississippi Extension Service Homemakers and FCE Club.

She was a member of First Baptist Church and active in women's programs and Sunday school. She especially loved providing beautiful flower arrangements made with cuttings from her garden for church events. Active in the Waynesboro Drive Garden Club, the Mississippi Council of Garden Clubs serving as President, the Deep South Garden Club Council and as a nationally accredited flower show judge. She was known for her entertaining and educational programs on flower arranging, gardening and recycling. In 1967, she was honored by Keep America Beautiful with their lifetime achievement award for her exceptional efforts to keep our nation beautiful. Some of her efforts included working to develop the Avenue of Magnolias at each of Mississippi's interstate state line entrances and also the garden club wildflower program. One of her mottos was to "leave things in better shape than you found them". In 1976 she was honored with the Mississippi Volunteer Activist award for the thousands of hours she gave in volunteer service to her community.

Indeed, her community activism began early with organizing Victory gardens to support America's effort during World War II.

Her lengthy volunteer service included numerous positions with the Jones County Republican Party, chairmanships of both the Jones County Republican Women and the Mississippi Republican Women.

Mrs. Wedgeworth was a docent for the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art where she so enjoyed giving tours and teaching children about the collections held at the museum. For decades, she served on the board of the Red Cross and

always had helping hands to assist victims of hurricanes and disasters who sought shelter from the storm. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she and Hilman welcomed and served meals to hundreds who fled to the Red Cross shelter in Laurel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel, MS.

To sign the online guest book, please visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Gardens Cemetery

2151 US-184  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **19**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

## Service

APR **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ I was proud to be her neighbor for almost 13 years. I've known her all my life. she was a model citizen.



Linda Boutwell - April 19, 2022 at 03:11 PM

MH

“ Prayers for the family, she was very special. Martha Chancellor Holloway

Martha C. HOLLOWAY - April 19, 2022 at 10:39 AM

AR

“ Mrs. Wedgeworth was so instrumental in my life. She helped me in 4H and gave me a lot of wonderful memories. She will truly be missed. Love and prayers to the family.

Angela & David Rudolph

Angela Rudolph - April 19, 2022 at 10:33 AM

JB

Sweet memories of Mary Jo, worked with her at the Red Cross, she was a model example to all around her. One of the best people I've known. Prayers for her family.

Jo Anne Bush - April 21, 2022 at 09:45 AM

JD

“🌷Lovely and Gracious, Strong and Adventurous (she traveled to Israel at 93 years old!)

Mimi was my Southern Grandmother💖 I always felt it was a great honor when she told me one day, years ago, that she counted me as “one of her girls”. She most definitely lived her motto of “leave a place better than how you found it”. That legacy lives on with her children and grandchildren and with me as “one of her girls”. I love you Mimi🌷



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**Julie Duncan** - April 18, 2022 at 05:26 PM

HS

*I met Mary Jo when I volunteered to help with flower arrangements for a museum event. She invited me to join her garden club and I became a member immediately. She was one of my dear friends and we shared many happy times in the Waynesboro Drive Garden Club later renamed Southern Heritage Garden Club.*

*I am so thankful that I have been blessed with her friendship and love. Now my precious friend is in the arms of our Lord and blessing heaven with her beautiful flowers and beautiful smile and gentleness .  
Jon and I love you and are thankful that you blessed our lives with such beauty and warmth and gentleness 🌷💜🙏*

*Much love  
Helen and Jon*

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**helen and jon swartzfager** - April 19, 2022 at 06:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Wedgeworth.*



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April 18, 2022 at 11:07 AM



“ *A real LADY. A genteel manner, kindness, and knowledge radiated from her. May her family find comfort in memories and love.*  
*Jan and Glen Kinard*

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**Jan Kinard** - April 18, 2022 at 09:51 AM



“ *Our heart is saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Wedgeworth. We grew up knowing the influence she had on the lives of many young people in Jones and surrounding counties through her tireless and sacrificial work with 4-H. Her children, James and Marsha, were role models for others to follow and still today set highest standards of excellence for others to emulate. Mrs. Wedgeworth will be missed by all who knew her and loved her. I'm praying for her family during this time of great sadness. May God richly bless you and sustain you.*

*Max Phillips*

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**Max Phillips** - April 17, 2022 at 04:43 PM



“ *Carmen Smith purchased the Simply Elegant Sp  
athiphyllum for the family of Mary Jo  
Wedgeworth.*



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**Carmen Smith** - April 17, 2022 at 04:03 PM

RF

“ *I loved her! When my mom passed away she hugged me and said  
“I’ll be your momma” what a wonderful lady and so much love in  
her.*

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**Rosa Folker** - April 17, 2022 at 10:01 AM

LF

“ *Hilman, James, Marsha, Karen, and your families, you are in my  
thoughts and prayers. I have fond memories of your mom. Louise  
Welborn Fall*

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**Louise Welborn Fall** - April 16, 2022 at 10:52 PM

BM

“ *I loved Ms Wedgeworth. I went to school with her two kids through  
elementary & high school. We lived in same community and our  
families went to the same church. Her daughter, Marsha, & I were  
friends in church & school. Her son, James, was a good friend of my  
brother. Ms Wedgeworth was always so sweet to help us kids in  
church. I remember her helping when we were in the 4-H club as  
young girls. As I grew up, married & had my own home, she was a  
great influence helping me join the garden club.  
She & Mr. Wedgeworth were great influences in our church,  
Eastview Baptist, and in our  
Community. Prayers for the family 🙏*

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**Brenda Mansell** - April 16, 2022 at 09:27 PM

MT

“ *A wonderful lady.*

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**Mickey Trest** - April 16, 2022 at 06:10 PM

AW

“ *Mary Jo was such a special lady. Always enjoyed being around her at garden club meetings. She had quite a gift with flowers. So sorry for your loss.*

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**Amy Busby Williams** - April 16, 2022 at 06:08 PM

MM

*Miss Wedgeworth is rejoicing in Heaven with my Mom Pansy Mulkey who went to JESUS this past January 31 they were good friends* ❤️❤️  
🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

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**mike mulkey** - April 17, 2022 at 08:55 AM

JE

“ *Sincere condolences to Mary Jo's family and friends.*



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**Jan Ellzey** - April 16, 2022 at 03:54 PM

DR

*Oh, I loved Mary Jo, one of the first people I met when I started working for the Jones County Extension Service. She was a remarkable woman, one I truly admired. My deepest sympathy for the Wedgeworth family. Sincerely, Dorian D. Rogers-Heindl*

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**Dorian D. Rogers-Heindl** - April 16, 2022 at 08:07 PM

DB

*Thinking of all the family. Debra Joyce Anderson Blackledge*

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**Debra Blackledge** - April 17, 2022 at 10:30 AM

JR

*This sweet lady and her late husband were the 1st to greet me when I joined Republican Women. I saw how hard she worked first hand to keep this organization going. She was a truly inspiring person. Her love of God and her church always shown thru in everything she did. Even after she was not in office, she often brought beautiful flowers to share with all us at JCRW. Thanks for being an influence in my life Mrs. Wedgeworth. - Jan Ruffin*

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**JR** - April 18, 2022 at 09:00 AM

JD

*James I am so sorry for you, Marsha and your whole families loss.*

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**Jack Delk** - April 19, 2022 at 11:11 AM