



O'Dell Sumrall

September 6, 1915 - May 4, 2017

O'Dell Davis Sumrall died peacefully in her sleep May 4th, 2017. She was 101. She spent her last day on earth visiting with family, doing her exercise routines and enjoying springtime in Mississippi.

Born September 6, 1915 to Marvin and Jennie Davis, she grew up in Rose Hill and moved to Laurel when she was 16. She got her first job in the beauty shop at the Gaddis Department Store in downtown Laurel and joined the First United Methodist Church. The following year, O'Dell met J. Noel Sumrall in front of the historic Strand Theater in Laurel. She knew he was “the one” from the moment they met.

O'Dell and Noel married after a short courtship, had four children and ran Sumrall Funeral Home until 1959. They were active members of the First United Methodist Church – a church that remained near and dear to O'Dell's heart throughout her life. She was a pianist at the church for more than 60 years. When Noel died in 1969, O'Dell started a career at Laurel General Hospital, with her youngest child still living at home. She retired from the hospital at the age of 70.

O'Dell treasured her family, her friends, her church and the City of Laurel. Her faith was her guiding light. She was kind, adventurous, ever-curious and remarkably tenacious about leading an active life. She rafted whitewater, though she could not swim, and surveyed the destruction of the Mt. St. Helens' volcano from a helicopter. At 99, she dove into technology, learning to

use an iPad to peruse Facebook and read text messages from family and friends every day.

She is survived by her son John (Suzy), her daughter, Merris, her daughter-in-law, Linda, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Noel Sumrall, her daughter, Margaret Dillard, and her son, Jim Sumrall.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, May 7th at 2:30 PM at Memory Chapel in Laurel with burial at Lake Park Cemetery. Reverend Mark Anderson, of First United Methodist Church, will officiate. Visitation will begin at 12:30. The family has requested no flowers but a gift can be made in her honor to her beloved church, the First United Methodist Church in Laurel.

Cemetery Details

Lake Park Cemetery

1303 Old Bay Springs Rd
Laurel, MS 39440

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM (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

MAY 7. 2:30 PM (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

SG

“ *Merris - so very sorry to hear about your sweet mother - my thoughts & prayers for you*

Sam Goodwin - June 11, 2017 at 08:26 PM

SP

“ *I will always remember the Sumralls. They were in my life when I was growing up. My dad Donald Jackson worked as a Mortician at Sumrall's funeral home and I listened to Ms. O'dell play in church every Sunday. So many memories. So sorry for this families loss. Prayers are with you each and every one.*

Sally Parrish - May 10, 2017 at 02:14 PM

AB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Praying for God's comfort and peace during these days.*

Amy Busby - May 06, 2017 at 06:39 AM

 Robert
Bethea

“ *Merris, so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. I remember her being so sweet to me when I had such a terrible crush on you in high school. Your family will be in my prayers. Bob Bethea*

Robert Bethea - May 05, 2017 at 03:57 PM