



## Thelma Stewart

April 26, 1934 - January 7, 2019

Thelma Brown Stewart, 84, of Cookeville, TN passed away on January 7, 2019 at her home.

She was born April 26, 1934 to Joseph H. and Frances Louise Edgmon Brown in Walker County, GA and spent her early childhood years living in Alabama, where she developed her life-long love of Coach Bear Bryant and the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Thelma moved to east Tennessee with her husband and TN state trooper, Herbert Stewart, and lived in several cities before settling in Cookeville, TN in 1964. She proudly worked as a librarian in Monterrey, TN and in the Headstart program of LBJ&C as a parent-teacher in hopes of having a positive influence on the children she met. She was a woman full of empathy and love.

As one of only a few Master Doll Makers in the country, Thelma spent her life making artwork of porcelain dolls in hand-made, hand-embroidered period clothing. She also taught classes, so she could share her skills with others. She won many awards for her craftsmanship and customers would send antique dolls to her from all over the world for repair. Her father was a talented wood worker, which is where she attained her proficiency in fine crafts. She preserved her family history as much as she produced other crafts.

Thelma loved entertaining and was an amazing cook and gardener. It made her the happiest to cook meals for anyone who might come across her doorstep. She enjoyed teaching her grandchildren how to cook and preserve, enjoy birding, and appreciate the beauty around them.

She is survived by her children, Deborah Stewart Chervenak (William), Brentwood, TN, Chester Stewart (Janet), Nashville, TN, Jack Stewart, Greenville, SC; Her grandchildren Andrew (Jessica) Chervenak, Nashville, TN, Sarah Chervenak, Brentwood, TN, Joseph Stewart, Knoxville, TN, Heather Stewart, Meeker, CO, Catherine Stewart, Nashville, TN, Michael Stewart, Greenville, SC and Megan Stewart, Greenville, SC; Her grandchild Zachary Chervenak, Nashville, TN; Her brothers David, Fred, Bobby, Curtis and Wayne Brown and sister Linda Rhodes, of Georgia.

In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Stewart; son, Glenn Stewart, daughter-in-law Deborah B. Stewart; brother, Earl Brown and sisters Nellie Padgett and Judy Fox.

Memorial services will be held at Dodson Branch Freewill Baptist Church, Reverend Ronald Allen, on Sat, January 19, 2019. Visitation begins at Noon, with services at 1:00 pm.

# Events

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**JAN**   **Visitation**            12:00PM - 01:00PM

**19**

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Dodson Branch FWB Church  
240 Old Branch Rd, Cookeville, TN, US, 38501

**JAN**   **Memorial**                    01:00PM

**19**

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Dodson Branch FWB Church  
240 Old Branch Rd, Cookeville, TN, US, 38501

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry to learn of your Mother's passing. I remember the many times she had words of caring when she worked with Jack at LBJ&C. We got to know her during those years and also when our daughter dated one of the boys. She also repaired one of my childhood dolls. There have been many years since our paths have crossed, but she always remained one of the very positive people in our lives. Debbie, Chester and Jack, you and your families are in my prayers as you face this life without this sweet lady. I know you hold many precious memories in your hearts. I do not get around very well (on a walker) and had thought of coming to her service but with the rain, it is very difficult to walk. What a blessing to know we will all be together again in a beautiful eternal life.!

**Sarah Joyce** - January 19 at 11:49 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. May the memories of her love and kindness fill your hearts during this time of sadness. May God's peace bring you comfort. May angels sing her entrance to heaven and her welcome shine down on earth with warmth. God Bless April Paul

**April Bailey** - January 17 at 10:43 AM

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“ From: The Chervenak Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Thelma Stewart.



**From: The Chervenak Family** - January 16 at 07:12 PM

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“ Will never forget living next door as a kid (5th grade). My short time living in Cookeville was one of the best and most memorable of my life. My dad was never around so my family next door became extended. Often myself, Jack, and Glenn would get disciplined together by Uncle Tince (I have nothing but respect and love and was blessed they cared enough to give me what I had coming). My Aunt was a gentle, caring, and wise person. A few times when I was older I dropped in to their home and Aunt Thelma made me welcome and feel loved. One of those times was with friends when I was 17/18 and had not been to Tennessee since I was 10. A couple more times I had my wife and baby boy and dropped in without notice on my

way back from Texas. I hardly had anything, but my Aunt made me feel I had everything. For years as I wised up I reflected back and only a special person would do that. Such a short time with my Aunt and her family I always felt cheated and still do (because of my parents turmoil). Many times I discussed my unhappiness with Aunt Thelma and every time she said Johnny hes still your dad and he loves you. My Aunt remembered all the mischief Jack, Glenn, and Myself got into and always had a smile and glow in her eyes. I know she loved her children. RIP we were all blessed to know you and will never forget you. I asked God for a sign for my Aunt going to heaven on my way home from work the day after she passed, suddenly and bright rainbow appeared and lasted a good 10 minutes. The rainbow was very close and I can't ever recall seeing a rainbow in Michigan in early January. God bless family and friends. Love John W Stewart (Johnny).

**john stewart** - January 16 at 03:37 PM