



Iva Oden

March 9, 1927 - November 4, 2018

Iva M. Oden, gardener extraordinaire, lover of music, amateur karaoke singer, wonderful cook, famous beauty (with very few wrinkles) and fashionista, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, November 4, 2018.

She was born to Charles and Ruby (Ralph) Persle, and lived most of her life in the Apple Grove community of Morgan County. You'll have to guess her age as she adamantly instructed her children NOT to print her birth date. She was married to Ellie "Red" Oden and, together, they raised five children on their farm. After Red's death, she and her youngest daughter, Rita, "took the reins", and together ran the chicken and cattle farm for 39 years. She won several poultry grower awards over the years and her farm, known widely for its beauty, was always a source of pride. Music was a lifelong joy and she loved to listen, dance and sing. She hosted "The Cave" music park every summer from 1980 to 1985 where as many as 300 people came on Friday nights to listen to the band and dance. For the last 9 years, she hosted the Oden Family and Friends picnic every June where family, friends and neighbors enjoyed a day of music, food, fellowship and fireworks at the beautiful Skidmore Cave. Some scenes from the movie "Tom and Huck" were filmed on site at the cave. She was even an extra in the movie and if you can still find it, you can see her in several scenes. Unfortunately, she never got her "big break" in "the movies" and had to be satisfied with being locally famous for her biting wit and strong will. She loved cardinals, hated squirrels and tolerated a

loud frog because she thought he was cute. She fostered too many dogs to remember and shared her home, for several years, with her precious Jack Russell Terrier, Maggie. Throughout her long life she loved, laughed and cried, she worked, she traveled, she shopped, she gardened, she sang, she danced and was loved by too many to count.

She is survived by four children, Iva Nell Douglass of Arab, John L. (Ruby) Oden of the Apple Grove Community, Carolyn J. (John) Toney of Somerville, Rita A. (David) Harvell of the Apple Grove Community and her close friend Harvey Kirby, whom she considered her "third son". Nine grandchildren, Lawana Brockwell, Tracy Thompson, Shannon Thompson, Charles "Chuck" Oden, Cathy Childers, Jason Day, Leslie Schultz, Alan Oden and Amy Allen. Thirteen great grandchildren and one great-great grandson. She is preceded in death by her Husband, Ellie "Red" Oden;, her beloved son, Charles E. Oden; parents, Charles and Ruby Persle; her brother Charles "Buddy" Persle and six infant siblings.

Funeral service will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 9, 2018 at Gober Funeral Chapel with Brother Glen Smallwood and Bro. Chuck Oden officiating. Burial will be in Forman Cemetery, Gober Funeral Chapel, directing.

Pallbearers will be Robert Hill, Jammey Light, Michael Light, Mark Morrow, Stephen Ryan, Tracy Ryan and serving as Honorary Pallbearers will be her grandsons and Lawrence Curue, David Fuller and Harvey Kirby

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2018 at Gober Funeral Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Forman Cemetery

Forman Bottoms Rd.
Somerville, AL 35670

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel
1331 Guntersville Road
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-8111
goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

Funeral Service

NOV 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel
1331 Guntersville Road
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-8111
goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

Tribute Wall



“ Iva Oden

October 23, 2023 at 12:35 AM



“ My heart goes out to the family. All of you know she was and always be one of the most special lady in my life. She showed me so much in the time I was blessed with her in my life. She didn't just have outer beauty, if someone took the time to really get to know her she is so amazing. We laughed, we cried,we would sit and talk for hours. I could never get tired of her stories. What started out as a job became a friendship I will always chairish and thank God everyday for placing her in my life. I miss her smiling face,her calls just to say she loves me. Most of all I miss her voice no Matter what she would be saying. I know heaven is a beautiful place, even more now because the most beautiful WOMEN that ever walked this earth walk hand in hand with God, Ms.Iva(Mamaw) and my Momma Linda. I love you and miss you!!! I'll keep growing my flowers until we meet again.

Rena Ross - April 20, 2019 at 04:24 AM

LK

“ I will never forget you fabulous lady. Thank you for always being so good to me. Thank you for sharing your history and stories, gardening and cooking tips and your laughter with me. I adored you so much. I was just thinking of you the other day when I brought home a new jacket/shawl and I remembered to inspect all the seams and hems and cut all the dangling threads. I could hear you telling me how loose threads look tacky and that made me smile. You were one of a kind. My sincere condolences to your family. RIP sweet lady.



With much love and respect,

Lisa

LISA KAISER - November 08, 2018 at 06:22 PM



“ Phyllis Owens sent a virtual gift in memory of Iva Oden



Phyllis Owens - November 08, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Phyllis Owens lit a candle in memory of Iva Oden



Phyllis Owens - November 08, 2018 at 02:03 PM

RA

“ *Ruby Oden with Ron, Amy, and Jaylee Allen purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Iva Oden.*



Ruby Oden with Ron, Amy, and Jaylee Allen - November 08, 2018 at 01:21 PM

TF

“ *Tracy Ryan Family lit a candle in memory of Iva Oden*



Tracy Ryan Family - November 08, 2018 at 11:15 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Iva Oden.*



November 08, 2018 at 10:52 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Iva Oden.*



November 08, 2018 at 10:45 AM

HC

“ *Helen Oden Childers lit a candle in memory of Iva Oden*



Helen oden childers - November 08, 2018 at 12:59 AM

Cynde Tannehill

“ *Jeff and Cynde Tannehill*



Cynde Tannehill - November 07, 2018 at 11:27 PM

AA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



amy allen - November 07, 2018 at 09:01 PM

AA

“ *Memaw. You'll be missed. Love you.*



amy allen - November 07, 2018 at 08:02 PM

SW

“ Prayers for all the family!!



SHARON WILSON - November 07, 2018 at 04:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Iva Oden.



November 07, 2018 at 02:29 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Diane Blake - November 07, 2018 at 12:30 PM

AA

Priceless. ❤️

amy allen - November 07, 2018 at 09:05 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Diane Blake - November 07, 2018 at 12:25 PM



“ *Linda McClain lit a candle in memory of Iva Oden*



Linda McClain - November 06, 2018 at 02:44 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Iva Oden.*



November 05, 2018 at 10:32 PM

DB

“ *Diane Blake lit a candle in memory of Iva Oden*



Diane Blake - November 05, 2018 at 05:49 PM