



## Melba Lee Downs

September 10, 1930 - December 3, 2018

Melba Lee Kicklighter Downs, 88 of Conyers, died Monday, December 3, 2018 at the home. Born September 10, 1930 in Glennville, GA, she was the daughter of the late Lee and Ollie Bird Kicklighter. Mrs. Downs, a graduate of Georgia Southwestern College and former teach in Milledgeville, GA was a member of the Conyers Presbyterian Church and previous member of the Morrow Presbyterian Church. She joyfully served her congregations as Elder, teacher, choir member and also served on the Greater Atlanta Presbytery Board. Survivors include daughters, Nancy D. Rambin (Alan) of Sautee, GA, Rebecca D. Williams (Kevin) of Lake Spivey, GA, Harriet D. Ike (David) of Spartanburg, SC; grandchildren, Austin (Dana) Rambin, Adam Rambin (David Carswell), Andrew Rambin, Johnson (Amy) Williams, Zachary Williams (Justin Peterson), Kathleen (Tyler) Binner, Harrison Williams, John David Ike, Anna Ike, Hampton Ike, Anders Ike; and sister, Mae Joe Garrett (Fred) of Dothan, AL. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 68 years, Harry Sims Downs and siblings, Elbert Kicklighter, Gwen Kennedy, Margaret Fussell, Maxine Davis, Lee Kicklighter. 'Mimi Lee' was a beloved grandmother and mother leaving a legacy of 'rules to live by,' a lifelong bridge teacher and Life Master of American Duplicate Bridge, a member of the Colonel John McIntosh Chapter of the DAR, a gracious hostess, an accomplished china painter, an avid gardener and caring friend to many. The life of the party, she brought joy to every experience and enriched the lives of many. A service celebrating Melba's life will be held Friday, December 7, 2018

at 3 p.m. at the Conyers Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made to Conyers Presbyterian Church, 911 N. Main Street, Conyers, GA 30012. Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 7. 3:00 PM (ET)

Conyers Presbyterian Church  
911 N. Main Street  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Nancy, Becky and Harriett,  
Was out of town for Melba's funeral. I remember the good times.  
Hope you remembering them as well will help with your grief.  
Mary and family*

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**mary Kicklighter** - December 11, 2018 at 10:04 AM

JW

“ *Dear Nancy and family,  
  
Hugh and I send our deepest sympathy to you and your family. So many Conyers Presbyterian and high school memories, I wouldn't know where to start. She was always a woman to be admired and was such a Southern lady. It is tough to lose a mother. Take care. I am sorry we will not be there today to tell you all this in person.*

*Hugh, Joanna, and boys*

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**Joanna Webster** - December 07, 2018 at 10:50 AM

RT

“ I met Melba shortly after Harry (and Bo Bolander) hired me to serve as Director of Financial Aid in 1971. Melba and Elizabeth Marshall were my two pillars of "Southern Womanhood to the MAX." Being from South Jersey and raised in Fort Lauderdale, I truly had not met women who embodied the graciousness and warmth of true southern ladies.

Melba was very kind to me. When I had major intestinal surgery in 1986 and spent 18 days in the hospital, she sent Harry over with a tureen of chicken and rice soup, once I got home. After I thanked him and asked him to give Melba a hug for Connie and I. Then I asked when I might see some of her sweet and savory pecans. Harry said that Melba knew I would ask that question and that the answer was not until I got well enough to digest them. I love how she was looking out for me, even if I wasn't!

My other favorite memory was shortly after Becky and Kevin got married. Connie and I had married just a few weeks earlier and Melba and Harry had us over for dinner. Just the four of us. With Connie being a former student less than five months before, Melba made extra efforts to help her feel as comfortable in her new role as a faculty wife. We loved her for that. The last time we saw her was when we visited her at the nursing home in Morrow. During that conversation she remembered us for a bit and we were able to cheer her up with a few stories and memories of days gone by. She will be missed by many, including us!

*Rob and Connie Taylor - Ocala, FL*

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**Rob and Connie Taylor** - December 06, 2018 at 08:44 AM

JL

“ Melba was a beautiful person, both physically and mentally. I shall remember her fondly and send my sympathy and condolences to her daughters.

*Jeanette Johnson Lackey*

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**Jeanette J. Lackey** - December 05, 2018 at 07:50 PM