

## Mary Cowsert Oakley

Services for Mary Cowsert Oakley, 83, of Starkville will be Saturday, July 26, at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Visitation will be in the Christian Life Center at the church from noon until immediately before the service.

Mrs. Oakley died Thursday, July 24, 2008, at Oktibbeha County Hospital after an extended illness. She was born May 29, 1925, to William C. and Florence Stone Cowsert. She was a homemaker and a bookkeeper for the family farm, Oak-Ayr Farm.

A lifelong resident of Oktibbeha County, she was a graduate of Starkville High School and an accounting graduate of Mississippi State College. She joined Starkville's First United Methodist Church in 1936 and was a member of the United Methodist Women and the New Beginnings Adult Bible Class.

Active in community affairs, she was a member of Oktoc Community Club and Oktoc Garden Club. She served as adult leader for the Oktoc 4-H Club and as a member of the Oktibbeha County 4-H Advisory Council.

In addition to that she served as the recording secretary for the District 5 Volunteer Fire Department, as a member of the local board of the Farmer's Home Administration, and as an Oktibbeha County jury commissioner. She was a member of Farm Bureau.

She was recognized for her role in the community when she received the Mississippi Blue Cross Blue Shield Ageless Hero Award.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Sue Cowsert Harper; a brother, William Cowsert; and a grandson, Thomas Oakley.

She is survived by her husband, Warren Oakley of Starkville; three daughters, Florence Oakley Box and husband, Larry, of Starkville, Mary Sue Oakley Hankins and husband, James, of Greenwood, Miss., and Frances Oakley McDavid and husband, Sammy, of Starkville; two sons, William Sanders Oakley and wife, Stanthia, of Starkville, and Robert Warren Oakley and wife, Sue, of Starkville; a sister, Rebecca Nash of Starkville; grandchildren, Warren Box, Nathan Oakley and wife, Deborah, Daniel Oakley and wife, Meghan, Joel Oakley and wife, Abbi, Mary Beth McDavid, Graham Oakley, Ciara Oakley, Zack Ray and Pamela Hankins Gnemi and husband, Larry; six great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be conducted by The Rev. Dr. Danny Rowland, the Rev. Jason Franklin, The Rev. Dr. Prentiss Gordon, and the Rev. Allen Bailey. Burial will be in Oddfellows Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the television ministry of the First United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice.