



## Diane McMillan Wellford

February 7, 1938 - November 6, 2019

Diane McMillan Wellford, 81, a longtime resident of Memphis, TN, passed away in Lake Oswego, OR on November 6, 2019 of Alzheimer's disease.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Walker Lewis Wellford III of Memphis and two children, Lauren Wellford Deming (husband Dr. Will Deming) of Portland, OR and Walker L. Wellford IV (wife Cheryl Dakin Wellford) of Atlanta, GA. She also leaves five grandsons: David and Jonathan Deming, and Walker, William, and Jack Wellford. She was predeceased by her brother Hugh Laurens McMillan. She is also survived by sister-in-law Sharon McMillan, niece Kim McMillan Norton, nephew Alan McMillan and a large extended family.

Diane was born on February 7, 1938, in Little Rock, AR, to Hugh and Kathleen King Shelton McMillan. She graduated from Little Rock Central High School where she served as vice president of the student body and earned a scholarship to attend Southwestern At Memphis (now Rhodes College). While earning her BA in History, she was an active student, serving on the Sou'wester newspaper staff, as a Kinney Program volunteer, and as a class officer. She was president of Chi Omega, the sweetheart of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and was voted Miss Southwestern.

Diane loved teaching, and during her twenty year career she worked at Snowden Elementary, St. George's Day School, and Shrine School where her passion for teaching children with disabilities led her to earn a master's degree in Special Education at Memphis State (now University of Memphis). In 1990 she was honored as Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Humanities Council. For several years she served as a VISTA volunteer, helping start the Metropolitan Interfaith Association (MIFA)'s home delivered meals program, and as a volunteer through the Memphis Junior League. She enjoyed being an alumnae advisor to the Chi Omega chapter at Rhodes for many years.

She was raised in a Christian home and at the time of her death had been a member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, for 61 years. At Idlewild she was an ordained elder, an officer in Presbyterian Women and a founder of the church's daycare center. Through the years at Idlewild she particularly enjoyed her women's circle, serving on the wedding committee, and attending family camp at NaCoMe. She dearly loved her church family.

Diane excelled at encouraging people. She was gracious, giving, loving, and a great listener. She enjoyed cheering the Memphis Grizzlies, reading good books, and snacking whenever she felt like it. Diane's family wishes to thank the fine people from Attendant Care Services and The Springs at Carman Oaks who provided her such genuine loving care in her final years.

Services will be held Friday, November 15 at 11 a.m. at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, 1750 Union Avenue, Memphis, 38104. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Idlewild or to the charity of the donor's choice.

# Events

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**NOV** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

**15**

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Idlewild Presbyterian Church

1750 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38104

# Comments

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“ Lauren and family.....

Please accept my sincere condolences for the recent passing of your mother...I only knew her through you, but what a life of gracious serving she lived. Many needs of her community were met by her. I especially applaud her sharing her life with the children at Shrine School. She impressed me as being one who knew the value of time ( see Ecclesiastes 3) and practiced the wise use thereof. You had an opportunity to care for her as she cared for you. I feel she knew when it was time to hear the words of our Lord "well done" , and she humbly went to her next "assignment". She is always with you now with a clear mind and memory..I appreciate the time we shared at Ridgeway....thanks for those memories....

Oma Strickland

Oma Strickland - November 14, 2019 at 11:40 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane McMillan Wellford.



November 14, 2019 at 12:44 PM