

Zella Yvonne Mann Stepp

December 14, 1919 – June 19, 2008

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, the Lord called His faithful servant Zella Yvonne Mann Stepp home to her Heavenly reward. She was at the Elizabeth House, (Hospice), in Hendersonville at the time of passing. She had blessed her family with over 88 years of endless love, laughter and then more love.

She was born on Dec. 14, 1919, in Roanoke, Va., to the late Thomas L. and Rollins Oates Mann. She was one of three children and the last surviving sibling. She was preceded in death by her brother, E. L. Mann, and sister, Loyce Mann Edmundson. She married J. H. Stepp Jr. of Dana on Jan. 12, 1942, in Greenville, S.C. They celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in January 2008. They were blessed with four children. In her life, she quietly reached out and touched many others in numerous ways. She graduated from Fruitland High School in 1936, and attended Asheville Normal Teachers College. While her husband was stationed overseas during World War II, she managed and operated J. H. Stepp and Sons feed store in Hendersonville. At the age of 49, she enrolled in the practical nurses course at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute. She graduated as a licensed practical nurse in 1970 and worked several years at Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville. She and her husband founded J. H. Stepp Farms Hillcrest Orchard. She was a member of Living Water Baptist Church in Hendersonville.

She is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, Joseph H. Stepp Jr. (Son) of Dana and their four children, Joseph H. Stepp III (Joby) and wife, Suzanne Stepp, of Rappahannock Academy, Va., Alan M. Stepp (Mike) and wife, Rita Stepp, of Dana, Sonya Stepp Hollingsworth and husband, Barry M. Hollingsworth, of Dana, and Sandra Stepp Johnson (Neicee) and husband, Eddie Johnson, of Flat Rock; eight grandchildren, Joseph H. Stepp IV (Jaye) and wife, Mo, of Fort Mill, S.C., Heather Stepp Erwin and husband, Wendell Erwin, of Hendersonville, Shannon Wingate Stepp of Rappahannock Academy, Va., Danielle Stepp McCall and husband, Rex, of Dana, April D. Stepp of Dana, Brandy A. Hollingsworth of Gastonia, Andi Hollingsworth Marshall and husband, Tim, of Dana, Cortney Rollins Johnson of Flat Rock and fiancéé Erik McCall of Flat Rock; and six great-grandchildren, Sarah Abigail Erwin, Clair Elizabeth Erwin, Callie Stepp McCall, Maggie Kea McCall, Gus Jays McCall and Leiann Brooke Marshall.

Visitation was from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church East Flat Rock. A funeral will be at 3 p.m. today at Living Water Baptist Church with burial to follow at Refuge Baptist Church in Dana. Donations can be made to the Elizabeth House, 581 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, N.C. 28731.

Jackson Funeral Service is in charge of the arrangements.