



Lola Davis Edwards

February 24, 1923 - October 24, 2023

Lola Ann Zimmerman Davis Edwards passed away October 24, 2023 at the age of 100. Born on February 24, 1923 in Springfield, Ohio to Joseph and Ida Zimmerman, she grew up in Plain City, Ohio. She was the third of four children to survive to adulthood. After graduating from Plain City High School in 1941, she entered the Mt. Carmel School of Nursing. She started in September, 1941. After the bombing at Pearl Harbor, her student training days took on more responsibilities as many registered nurses entered the services. She graduated in 1944 and worked at Mt. Carmel hospital for about 6 months. In early 1945, she entered the Army as a surgical nurse. She was stationed at the Green Brier Army Hospital, WV where cutting edge surgery was being taught and performed. Late in 1945, at the end of WWII, she volunteered to be a part of the Army of the Occupation. Landing in Le Harve, France on Christmas Day, 1945, she was stationed at the 239 General Hospital in Paris. While there, she witnessed the relighting of the Arc De Triomphe. Late October 1946, she was

discharged from the Army and returned to Columbus, OH to work in surgery at Mt. Carmel Hospital.

She met Dr. Mel Davis, a Navy veteran doing a pathology residency soon after, and on June 28, 1947,

they were married at First Congregational Church. They went on to have nine children; Tamzan

Ann (Lou) Varga, Amanda Sue (Vic) Ryan, Candace Kay (Eric) Greene, Mellar Pilgrim (Deborah

Doan) Davis, Sarah Jane (Richard) Early, Rebecca Lou (Larry) Williams, Gretchen Lee (Tom) Hoover,

Robert Peter (Martine Pfeffer) Davis, and Michael Powell (Jeanie Kelly) Davis, 26 grandchildren and

35 great-grandchildren.

Lola, affectionately called Zimmy (a nickname from Mel) by family and close friends, was married to

Mel until his death on September 15, 1997 (50 years). Three years later, Lola married William

Edwards, an acquaintance from her very early days at Mt. Carmel and a widower. They were married

until his death on April 26, 2015.

Lola was a 3 lb. premature baby, a busy child and always a feisty lady. She managed a household with

9 children. She was very involved at First Congregational Church serving as one of the early female

deacons, a member of the house and grounds committee, and with two friends, starting the Pretiola

Shop, which sold fair trade goods that operated until 1999. She enjoyed sewing, making clothes and

other items including costumes for the annual Christmas pageant at First Church. Zimmy also was a

founding member and president of the Auxiliary of the American Society of

Clinical Scientists, an organization in which Mel was an active member. Mel and Zimmy loved to travel, both stateside and abroad, and were able to do so as their children left the home. Zimmy always loved art and was also an avid reader. Together, she and Mel taught their children to appreciate learning, no matter the subject, and to do their best, no matter the job. They also taught their children to respect the dignity of a person for who they are, not by their race, religion, sexual orientation or social standing.

Above all, Zimmy was devoted to her family. She remembered her grandchildren with cards and gifts. She was always willing to care for grandchildren when their parents needed the assistance. She loved the babies, whether they be her own, her grandchildren or great-grandchildren. As the family grew, she especially loved all the gatherings of the boisterous Davis Clan. The family thanks all the staff at Primrose Senior Living for their wonderful care of Lola, and the staff of Fairhope Hospice staff, especially Heather.

A Memorial service will be held at First Congregational Church on November 18, 2023 at 2PM.

Caring cremation by Rutherford- Corbin Funeral Home has taken place and a private burial is being planned. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Lola's name should be sent to First Congregational

Church, 444 E. Broad St. Columbus, Ohio 43215 or Fairhope Hospice, 282 Sells Rd. Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

3349 Olentangy River Rd
Columbus, OH 43202
(614) 267-5471

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH

Tribute Wall

RS

“*Lola was one of my heroes. I grew up on Overbrook Drive and lived two houses from the Davis home. I was nine or ten years old when the Davis' moved in and there were three little girls in their family at that time and Mellar was born shortly thereafter. He was the first boy!*

As I got older I became a baby-sitter for the Davis' and what a great experience. I loved the closeness of their family and the fun they had especially around the dining room table singing "Bicycle Built for Two" or "K-k-k Katie" lead by Mel while Lola cleared the table and brought dessert.

Lola was a marvel at managing their household. Laundry was going every day. Weekly menus were all set and their home was always immaculate. She was a good decorator too. One of my favorite memories was seeing the painted handprints of Mel, Lola and each child on the doors in the entryway of their home. On Saturday mornings I would go to their house and wash hair! All the kids would line up and one by one, I would wash their hair.

It seemed after a long winter when spring allowed us to be back outside, Lola would blossom and another baby was on the way, nine total and each one was a blessing to their family. Lola was a wonderful wife and mother. She was a compassionate and loving person. I never knew of all of her accomplishments until I read her story. She was a remarkable woman helping to raise a beautiful family along with her loving husband, Mel. She has left an amazing legacy in her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and what a gift to all of us to have known her. Lola will be sorely missed and always have a place in my heart.

Rebecca Stentz - November 13, 2023 at 09:20 AM

FF

“ From the Davis Family purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Lola Davis Edwards.



From the Davis Family - November 10, 2023 at 12:15 PM

FF

“ From the Davis Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lola Davis Edwards.

From the Davis Family - November 10, 2023 at 12:15 PM

AC

“ Dear sweet lady to all she met. Mel and Deb are my tie to Zimmy. She always greeted me with a smile and conversation. She was so special.

Amy Chivington - October 27, 2023 at 07:55 AM



“ One of my favorite memories of Zimmy was just a few years ago when she was in her '90s asking if I could help her convert a digital photo to a JPEG so that she could upload it to her Facebook page. She never stopped growing. That may be the secret of such a long and fulfilling life. We will all miss her.

Brenda Davis-Sender - October 26, 2023 at 05:58 PM