



## Mrs. Edwina Ridgway Ford

January 21, 1937 - April 11, 2026

Edwina Mary Ridgway Ford, 89, originally of Royston, Georgia, and most recently of Athens, Georgia, passed away peacefully of natural causes on April 11, 2026, surrounded by her family. Born on January 21, 1937, she lived a long, full life marked by devotion, generosity, and a steadfast commitment to caring for others.

Edwina was the true matriarch of her family, a woman whose presence anchored generations. She raised five children, a legacy that grew into twenty grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren, each of whom carries forward her spirit of kindness, hospitality, and strength. Over the years, she lovingly answered to many names: Edwina Mary, Edwina, Sissy, Wana, Bun, Mama, Aunt Wana, Big Mama, Grandmama, Memaw, Granny, and Memes. Each nickname reflected a different relationship, a different season, and a different person who adored her.

Edwina was married to the late Dr. William C. Ford, whose primary care practice served the Northeast Georgia community for many years. Together, they built a life centered on service. Dr. Ford was known for accepting trades for healthcare when needed, and Edwina supported his work wholeheartedly; from shucking a truckload of corn offered by a grateful patient to opening her home to those who were ill and had nowhere else to go. Her family was already large, but she extended that sense of family into the community,

offering comfort, food, and care to anyone in need.

She loved to travel, cook, and eat well — and often. Her kitchen was always open, and anyone who crossed her threshold was welcomed with a warm meal. She delighted in shopping, especially for dishes to plate beautiful meals for her guests, and she was always on the lookout for “a little something,” a small gift or thoughtful token, to give to anyone in her life or her family’s lives. Edwina loved to crochet, especially dish towels, which she would also give away as “a little something,” each one stitched with care and offered with love.

Special needs ministry became dear to Edwina’s heart after her oldest great-granddaughter was born with Down syndrome. The strong family she had nurtured only grew stronger, forging an even deeper bond that later inspired her son to adopt a child with Down syndrome from China. Her love, acceptance, and unwavering support shaped the way her family embraced and celebrated every life.

Edwina is survived by her siblings, Susan Kay (Gary), Jennifer Stewart, and Bob Ridgway (Joanne); her children, Jo Beth James (Phillip), Suzanne McCulloch (Ray), Lanie Alligood (Steve), Jane Lyons (John), and Chet Ford (Nicole); and the plethora of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews who will forever cherish her wisdom, humor, and unwavering love. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Robert Edwin & Beth Locke Ridgway, her husband, Dr. Billy Ford, her brother-in-law, Mark Stewart, and her twin grandsons, Will & Ches Ford.

Per Edwina’s request, in lieu of a service and flowers, she request you tell your family and friends how much you love them, and if you feel led, contributions in her memory may be made to Prince Avenue Baptist Church’s Every Neighbor campaign (<https://pabc.org/every-neighbor/>). This campaign will create a dedicated space for individuals with special needs and further the

work of the Prince Pals ministry, a cause that touched Edwina's heart in profound and lasting ways.

Special thanks to the staff of the Overlook Senior Living- Monroe and Family Hospice for their compassion, love, and care. We will forever be grateful for them.

Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston, GA is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## **Rose Hill Cemetery**

Burch Street  
Royston, GA 30662

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ Gary Bragg lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edwina Ridgway Ford



Gary Bragg - April 21 at 09:26 PM

RD

“ What a beautiful tribute! Edwina was quick with a smile and hosted the Church youth group many times at her home in Lavonia. She was one of my favorite adults when I was that age. I know you all will miss her so very much! Rebecca "Becky" Dixon

Rebecca Dixon - April 17 at 08:08 AM

PC

“ Such a sweet and beautiful woman, my mom worked for her and she loved Ms.Edwina and I remember she gave me something she had crocheted, sorry for the loss.

Phyllis Christian - April 15 at 09:48 AM

LB

“ Leslie And Jan Boles sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Edwina Ridgway Ford



Leslie and Jan Boles - April 14 at 06:42 PM

MH

“ *Martha Ann Hulme sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Edwina Ridgway Ford*



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**Martha Ann Hulme** - April 14 at 05:57 PM

EH

“ *Evelyn Herring lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edwina Ridgway Ford*



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**Evelyn Herring** - April 14 at 04:26 PM

LT

“ *Prayers to you all. She was such a sweet n caring woman. Her n her Late Husband. My late sister- in- law named triplets after him. Which one are sick in hospital at this time. You all have our most precious deepest sympathy.*



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**Lydia Mattox TuckerShumaker** - April 14 at 01:48 PM

SR

“ *MO and I are so very sorry for your loss and we are praying for the family's. God bless y'all!  
Sherry and MO Ruff*

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**Sherry Ruff** - April 14 at 10:25 AM

SG

“ *Suzanne Greenway Gillespie sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Edwina Ridgway Ford*



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**Suzanne Greenway Gillespie** - April 14 at 09:55 AM

PL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you during this time. Was an honor to take care of her during her last days. I will never forget her beautiful smile.*

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**Priscilla Lowe** - April 14 at 08:00 AM

TF

“ *Prayers for you all during this time. It was truly a pleasure spending time with Mrs. Edwina. She always put a smile on my face and I loved hearing her stories. She was such a fun and kind soul, I know she will be missed dearly and remembered fondly.*

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**Tonya Fairbanks** - April 14 at 03:22 AM

BJ

“ *My prayers and deepest sympathy to all Edwina's family. Praying God will surround each of you with His Undying Love, Mercy and Grace during this time and the days, weeks and years to come. She was a very Special Lady to everyone .*

*Brenda J. Jordan  
Hartwell, Ga.*

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**Brenda J. Jordan** - April 13 at 09:04 PM

AS

“ Prayers for the family and thoughts of comfort.

A.Wayne Smith - April 13 at 06:48 PM

PK

“ Phyllis King lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Edwina Ridgway Ford



Phyllis King - April 13 at 05:59 PM

CT

“ Cynthia Tye lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Edwina Ridgway Ford



Cynthia Tye - April 13 at 04:35 PM

PP

“ I always remember you at the doctors office  
as I was only about 7 years old when Dr. Ford  
started treating me and all our family.  
I always admire how very sweet you were and  
always remember your beautiful smile.  
I don't think I recall seeing you that you were not smiling.  
We will truly miss you cuz.  
Love you,  
Pat Worley Price



Pat Worley Price - April 13 at 02:34 PM

TT

“ *What a special kind and loving lady.  
Prayers for the family. She was special to me , always greeting me  
with a smile.  
God indeed gained an angel.*

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**Tina & Stevie Thomas** - April 13 at 02:09 PM

KB

“ *Karen Bond lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Edwina Ridgway Ford*



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**Karen Bond** - April 13 at 01:50 PM

CB

“ *So sorry for your loss, my thoughts and  
prayers are with each of you*



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**Christy Bridges** - April 13 at 01:45 PM

TQ

“ *Tricia Quarles lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Edwina Ridgway Ford*



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**Tricia Quarles** - April 13 at 01:12 PM

EC

“ Prayers for the families.



Evelyn Cress - April 13 at 12:34 PM

TQ

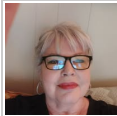
Prayers for Family an Friends. She was an exceptional Lady. Prayers for Family an Friends.

Tricia Quarles - April 13 at 01:13 PM

BP

Edwina became one of my favorite neighbors when she and Dr. Ford lived in Athens. It was always a joy to stop and chat a few minutes with her. The family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Bill Pass

Bill Pass - April 13 at 01:37 PM



Bob, Ed, and family,

What a beautiful life well lived. My family's thoughts and prayers are with you.

Barbara Bryant Wilson  
The Bryant Family

Barbara Wilson - April 13 at 08:22 PM

AB

It has been a true honor to care for her here at The Overlook. She will be truly missed by each and every one of us. We are praying for you all during this time.

Amber Brock - April 14 at 09:35 AM

MD

*Ms. Edwina was an indomitable spirit and a beautiful lady. Milton and I spent some of our favorite times with her and Dr. Ford. The world lost a true light.*

**Mellisa Dalton** - April 14 at 01:12 PM

BP

*So sorry to hear of Edwina's passing. She always reminded me of Aunt Beth. She spread joy wherever she was. I know she will be missed. Lots of prayers for all the family. Love, Beverly Burch Pierce ❤️*

**Beverly Pierce** - April 15 at 11:29 AM