



Edna Cucksey Stephens

October 13, 1948 - March 23, 2026

Edna Cucksey Stephens, 77, of Holly, Michigan, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2026.

She was born on October 13th, 1948, in Brandenburg, Kentucky, to Othel and Vivian Williams. Edna married the love of her life, Mark Stephens, on July 20th, 1991. Together, they shared 38 years of unwavering love, devotion, and partnership, building a life centered on family, friendship, generosity, and helping others.

Edna dedicated 26 years of her life to education with Lake Orion Community Schools. She had a special way with children — each one drawn to her kindness, patience, and genuine care. A lifelong champion of teachers and community, she was a proud member of Alpha Delta Kappa since 1978, an organization committed to educational excellence and scholarship, and served on its State Board beginning in 1982.

After retiring from teaching, Edna continued her passion for literacy by founding EDCO Publishing, an Auburn Hills-based children's publishing company. Through her work, she co-founded a children's literacy organization and authored and published books that reached schools across the country and into Canada. Among her most beloved works was *You and Me Make Three*, a compassionate story helping children navigate the challenges of

divorce, and Looking at Animals with Mr. Etch a Sketch, a playful early reader for young children. She also co-authored Core Democratic Values with Rock U.S.A., bringing civic education to life in the classroom. Edna's goal was simple and steadfast: to make sure every child had access to a book that spoke to them.

She had a deep love for travel, cooking, tennis, and golf, but most of all, she cherished her family — especially her children and grandchildren. Her life revolved around helping others, and she gave generously to anyone in need.

Edna will be remembered for her strong spirituality, her generous heart, and her gift for bringing people together. She especially loved the holidays, often hosting large family gatherings filled with warmth and joy.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Mark Stephens; her son, Scot (Meren) Cucksey; her daughter, Cari Cucksey (Vince) Iafano; her brothers, Stanley (Amy) Williams, Donnie (Ann) Williams, Scotty (Mandy) Williams, Clint (Cathy) Williams, and Ricky Williams; her sisters, Martha Ruebelman, Kay Stephenson (Jimmy), Fay Bennett (Ricky), and Lois Wilson; and her cherished grandchildren, Will Cucksey and Orion Iafano, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents, Othel and Vivian Williams, and her beloved brother, Danny Williams.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to Michigan Alpha Lambda, in honor of Edna's lifelong dedication to education and teachers.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Visitation

MAR 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

DryerFuneral Home, Inc.
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291
bgdryer@hotmail.com
<https://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 12:30 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Celebration of Life

MAR **29**. 1:30 PM (ET)

The Nova Room and Pavilion
111 College St.
Holly, MI 48442

Tribute Wall

SO

“ I am so so sorry for your loss. Edna was genuine, in every way. From Flaherty High School to WKU and AOPi sorority and all days since; we had a friendship that never changed - regardless of the miles between or the years of absence. We saw each other in Louisville in 2024 and I got a text recently, wishing me a Happy Easter! We were "Mutt & Jeff" and here's photos to demonstrate the source of a great deal of teasing. She was 'little' and 'mighty'! You are in my thoughts! Susan Steen O'Daniel



Susan ODaniel - April 03 at 08:37 PM

DC

“ Sending love and hugs to the Cucksey, Stephens, and Iafano families as you mourn the loss of an anchor in your family. I only met momma Edna a couple of times, but remember her big smile and super friendly personality.

Rest easy, Edna.

*love,
The Cruickshank Family*

Dave Cruickshank - March 30 at 09:21 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



March 28 at 09:35 AM



“ *Love, Whitney and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



Love, Whitney and Family - March 27 at 08:29 PM



“ *Erin O'Connor, Josh Kluesner, and Wyatt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*

Erin O'Connor, Josh Kluesner, and Wyatt - March 27 at 02:56 PM



“ *Erin O'Connor, Josh Kluesner, and Wyatt purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



Erin O'Connor, Josh Kluesner, and Wyatt - March 27 at 02:56 PM

SK

“ *sandra K. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



sandra K. - March 27 at 12:34 PM

CM

“ *Carol M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*

Carol M. - March 27 at 11:45 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



March 27 at 06:38 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



March 26 at 07:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.

March 26 at 07:03 PM



“ Chris and Susan Cucksey, Joyce Cucksey and Austin Fuller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.

Chris and Susan Cucksey, Joyce Cucksey and Austin Fuller - March 26 at 01:21 PM



“ Chris and Susan Cucksey, Joyce Cucksey and Austin Fuller purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



Chris and Susan Cucksey, Joyce Cucksey and Austin Fuller
- March 26 at 01:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



March 26 at 12:52 PM

PW

“ Pro-Active Chiropractic & Wellness purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



Pro-Active Chiropractic & Wellness - March 26 at 09:39 AM

PW

“ Pro-Active Chiropractic & Wellness planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.

Pro-Active Chiropractic & Wellness - March 26 at 09:39 AM

MF

“ Mike and Lynette Post and Family purchased the A Full Life for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



Mike and Lynette Post and Family - March 26 at 09:20 AM

CH

“ Connie, Ryan and Jill Hoffman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



Connie, Ryan and Jill Hoffman - March 26 at 07:36 AM

JH

“ Jennifer Hoyes purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



Jennifer Hoyes - March 25 at 11:09 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



March 25 at 10:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.

March 25 at 10:41 PM

MZ

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Edna's passing. She was such a gracious and welcoming person, and I will always remember her kindness. From the very beginning, she — and her entire family — made me feel included and at home, whenever I was in Holly. She will be missed.

Mike Z

Mike Zeluff - March 25 at 07:07 PM

MA

“ *It’s hard to put into words what she meant to me. Over time, she became such an important part of my life—someone I truly loved and cared for, like family.*



Edna taught me so much—about life, about strength, about how to care for others and yourself. So many of my favorite memories are the simple ones—laughing together, talking about everything and nothing, and just being in her presence. She had a way of making even ordinary moments feel special.

There was a warmth about her that made you feel comfortable, like you were exactly where you were meant to be. She cared for me in such a genuine and steady way, always showing up with love, wisdom, and that little bit of strength you didn’t even realize you needed.

I’ll always hold onto those moments—the laughter, the conversations, the way she made me feel seen and cared for. Those are the things that will stay with me forever.

She meant more to me than I could ever fully put into words, and I’m going to miss her deeply. But I know the love she gave me is something I’ll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Forever in my heart. 🧡

Maria - March 25 at 07:07 PM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*



March 25 at 06:54 PM



“ *Edna was more than my incredible, amazing boss; she was my dear friend.*

We shared a heart connection that is rare to find.

Her red hair, teaching background and feisty spirit so reminded me of my late mom. None better.

I loved Edna dearly and know in my soul how BIG she loved me.

When it came to living, Edna made the (-) in the middle matter.

Edna made her dash matter! For me, the community she served and for her family near and far.

She made the difference for others, especially me, and I am blessed to have had a friendship so dear with her.

Forever and always in my heart.

Until we walk the streets of heaven together my friend.

I love you BIG.

Jacque Brandel

Jacque Brandel - March 25 at 05:14 PM



“ *ADK planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edna Cucksey Stephens.*

ADK - March 25 at 02:47 PM

AD

“ ADK purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



ADK - March 25 at 02:47 PM

FA

“ Ferol A. purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Edna Cucksey Stephens.



Ferol A. - March 25 at 01:50 PM