



Odessa (Cunningham) Stagers

June 11, 1927 - May 3, 2023

AYER: Odessa A. (Cunningham) Stagers, 95, the wife of the late Jonathan L. Stagers, Sr., and a former longtime resident of Hayward, California, died Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at Nashoba Valley Medical Center, Ayer.

Mrs. Stagers was born in Richmond, Virginia June 11, 1927, the last survivor of

ten children born to Johnnie and Jimmie (Hardy) Cunningham and resided fifty-two years in California before moving to Ayer, Massachusetts last year.

Mrs. Stagers was a graduate of Maggie Walker High School of Richmond VA,

and attended Virginia State University where she met her husband Jonathan.

She

later graduated from Claflin University, with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

A lifelong teacher, Mrs. Stagers taught English & Physical Education at Logan

High in the New Haven Unified School located in Union City, California. She was

Logan High School girl's tennis coach.

She was a life member of several organizations including NAACP, Alpha Kappa

Alpha Sorority Inc., and The Links. She volunteered with the Literacy Plus Program in Hayward, where she taught adults how to read. For her

meritorious

work, she was recognized by the City of Hayward by being named Woman of the

Year. She was also a member of Church by the Side of the Road in Berkeley, CA.

More recently she was a participant at Clearpath for Veterans at Devens.

There she

got to meet and converse with many members.

Mrs. Staggers leaves her daughter, Sharon P. Staggers – Moss with whom she

resided in Ayer; two sons, Vernon L. Staggers of Hayward, CA, Jonathan L. Staggers, Jr. of Menlo Park, CA; four grandchildren, Jason Staggers, Candice Woodson, Chelsea Staggers, Jackie Moss and four great grandchildren, Jayden

Staggers, Jonathan Porter Staggers, Ensō Eli Staggers-Kaletka and Odessa Pearl

Staggers-Kaletka. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late E.J. Cunningham, Myles Cunningham, James Cunningham, Reudi Cunningham, Emma Ford, Dot Brown, Roberta Morgan, Mattie Ashe and Gertie B. Taylor.

Mrs. Staggers was the last surviving aunt of the late tennis great, Arthur Ashe.

Mrs. Staggers' funeral service will be held 1 PM Friday, June 2, 2023 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, (Rte. 2A) Ayer.

www.andersonfuneral.com.

To view a recording of Odessa's Funeral Mass, please click the following link:

<https://my.gather.app/remember/odessa-staggers>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 2. 1:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Tribute Wall

TC

“ *Tobe Conway lit a candle in memory of Odessa (Cunningham) Stagers*



Tobe Conway - June 02, 2023 at 03:38 PM

TH

“ *The Hirtles purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Odessa (Cunningham) Stagers.*



The Hirtles - May 31, 2023 at 08:31 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Odessa (Cunningham) Stagers.*



May 12, 2023 at 12:36 PM

BK

“ *Bobbi King lit a candle in memory of Odessa (Cunningham) Stagers*



Bobbi King - May 11, 2023 at 02:38 PM



“ *Eric Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Odessa (Cunningham) Staggers* ”



Eric Cunningham - May 11, 2023 at 11:18 AM