



Lois Eskridge Lewis

February 16, 1926 - January 12, 2016

Lois Eskridge Lewis, born February 16, 1926, died January 12, 2016. Predeceased by her husband, Frank Gordon Lewis, mother, Lillie Prisock Allgood, and parents, Elizabeth and Meredith Bonnie Eskridge. Survived by her son, Thomas (Tom) Meredith Lewis (Tammy), Heidelberg, Mississippi, and daughter, Jan Lewis Brandes, Nashville, Tennessee, and granddaughter, Cara Lewis Cahak (Ryan), Knoxville, Tennessee, grandsons, George Lewis Brandes, Washington, DC, Samuel Brooks (Blair) Lewis, Jackson, Mississippi, and Avery Walker Brandes, Nashville, Tennessee, great-granddaughters, Alee, Annah Cate, and Charli; sisters, Betty Hatcher (Jimmy), of Memphis, Tennessee, Dianne Barfield, and Roy F. Cotton (Juanita) of Jackson, Mississippi; aunts, Pauline Rhodes, Louisville, Mary Marler, Brooksville, Mississippi, and a host of nieces and nephews. She was born in Brooksville, Mississippi, and graduated in 1947 from then Mississippi State College for Women, in Columbus, Mississippi with a degree in secretarial science. She held her first teaching position in Heidelberg, Mississippi where she moved at the request of her admired principal. There she married Gordon Lewis, a fellow teacher. She taught at the Heidelberg High School for more than two decades, serving as the sponsor for many student organizations, and mentoring generations of students. Blessed with a lovely alto voice, she sang on a radio program in her teens, later at the W, and in her church choir. She left her Baptist heritage to join the Heidelberg United Methodist Church, but her faith was unrelated to

denomination. She was a stalwart presence in her church and community, until leaving in 2013, when her health faltered.

She had many friendships, nurtured from childhood, college, and her nearly 70 years in Heidelberg. She was the ultimate arbiter of grammar, language, and appropriateness, and exacting in every way. Every church bulletin and garden club yearbook she produced reflected her love of detail and perfection. She was an energetic First Lady of Heidelberg, always ready to help, as a great helpmeet to her mayor husband. Often with book in hand, she continued with reading clubs and Bible study, after years of teaching Sunday school. In her later years, she was the recipient of beloved visits with her former students and colleagues. Many said that her typing class was never so appreciated as when computers were introduced!

Her grandchildren were her joy and trips with them were planned by her, often with an au pair in tow. She maintained a wide correspondence with friends and family, and was the last matriarch in the Lewis family, whom she loved and who she always maintained was part of what drew her to her husband of 65 years.

Her family is grateful to Celeste Morgan for long years of service and in recent years to Walter Wilson and staff at Park Manor, Nashville.

Funeral services will be held at the Heidelberg United Methodist Church, Heidelberg, Mississippi at 2pm, on Saturday, January 16, 2016 with visitation from 12 noon to 2pm. In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorials be given to the Mississippi University for Women Foundation, Lois Eskridge Lewis Scholarship Fund, 1100 College Street, Columbus, MS, 39701, or to the Heidelberg United Methodist Church, 210 North Magnolia Avenue, Heidelberg, Mississippi, 39439. To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapelauarel.com.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Connie Forbes lit a candle in memory of Lois Eskridge Lewis*



Connie Forbes - April 09, 2016 at 03:35 AM

CF

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Ms. Lewis. I had the honor and privilege caring/assisting Ms. Lewis while in her residence at Park Manor. Ms. Lewis was a truly lovely Southern Belle and Grand Lady~ always most gracious, loving and kind.

Connie Forbes - April 09, 2016 at 03:41 AM

WR

“ *I am one of those former students who visited her several times. During my last visit I also commented that her typing course saved me many hours at the keyboard when I majored in Computer Science.*

I have a funny story about my last visit. She was telling the story about how she came to Heidelberg planning to stay for only a year, but met Gordon and he persuaded her to stay. I said, "Well, you and Gordon had many happy years together, didn't you?" She replied, "Yes, but we did have our moments!" I had to suppress a laugh because I didn't expect that response at all.

She gave a lot to the students and friends in Heidelberg. She will live on in the memories of those whom she touched for a long time.

Woody Ratcliffe - January 18, 2016 at 11:52 AM

JC

“ I am so very sorry. She was such a wonderful Lady.
Judy

Judy Donald Clark - January 16, 2016 at 02:04 PM

RL

“ Tom, Just want you and your family to know that we respected and appreciated both of your parents.
Sincerely,
Rod and Tina Lowery

Rod and Tina Lowery - January 16, 2016 at 10:52 AM

RB

“ I have nothing but fond memories of both Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lewis. They each made lasting impressions on a rural Jasper county boy from Paulding. Ray from class of 1959

Ray Bergin - January 15, 2016 at 09:37 PM

WT

“ I have such pleasant memories. of attending Heidelberg High School and .Mrs, Lewis was such a big part of all of that. She was very competent and a very thorough teacher. She did have high expectations for us all. Loved her dearly and I still do, her and her precious family. Love and prayers, Winky Touchstone

Winky Gladys Stroud Touchstone - January 15, 2016 at 06:50 PM

DH

“ Lois Eskridge Lewis

Dennis Henley - January 15, 2016 at 06:25 PM

LU

“ I will never forget the kind letter Ms. Lewis sent to me when my mom died. I had only been at HA for a short time, which made her kindness so important to me. Throughout the years, I grew to love and respect her for her integrity and dignity, in addition to her support for the school and each of instructors.
May God bless and comfort you with your memories of your beautiful mother.

Laverne Ulmer - January 14, 2016 at 09:06 PM

MD

“ We were saddened to hear of Lois' death. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Margaret and Ron Davis

Margaret McRae Davis - January 14, 2016 at 07:44 PM

SD

“ So sorry to learn of the passing of Mrs. Lewis, our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Sherri Dykes - January 14, 2016 at 03:37 PM