



Mary Ann Reddoch Murray

June 5, 1928 - August 5, 2014

Mary Ann Reddoch Murray was the first daughter and second child of Mary Wilson and Longino Reddoch. She was born on Tuesday, June 5, 1928, at her maternal grandmother's home in Ellisville, Mississippi. Her parents later welcomed two additional daughters into their family.

Mrs. Murray grew up in Hebron. Her parents filled their home with love, inspiration, encouragement, and joy that yielded values and memories that lasted throughout her life. As a child she, her mother, sister, and brother looked forward to seeing movies every Saturday at the Strand, Jean, and Arabian Theaters in Laurel. She swam in the Leaf River with her siblings before the age when fear of snakes took over. And, she enjoyed the entertainment provided by her mother's entrepreneurial venture with the biggest mail order hog anyone in the area had ever seen.

She enjoyed learning and was a disciplined student. At Mississippi State College for Women (MSCW) she majored in history. After teaching high school history for two years, Mrs. Murray decided to change her focus to business education; so, she took courses at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) to become qualified to teach typing, bookkeeping, and shorthand. A few years later she earned a master's degree in business education at USM. She taught her entire thirty-nine year career at Taylorsville High School. In becoming a teacher, she followed in her mother's foot steps. Prior to entering MSCW, she graduated from Jones County Agricultural High School and Jones County Junior College both in Ellisville.

Her elementary school years would shape her adult life in an unexpected way, also; for, she met her future husband Charles Henry Murray while attending Summerland Elementary School. They married August 8, 1949, and had one child, a daughter, Marianne Yvonne Murray.

Mrs. Murray's dedication to education shaped her choices of organizations to which she belonged. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International that promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education and Smith County Retired Teachers. Service to her church was instilled into her by her parents. She was a loyal member of Summerland Baptist Church. She faithfully attended worship services until her health prevented her from leaving home and taught children's Sunday School classes for many years. The Lottie Moon Missionary Organization was of particular interest to her. She felt it essential that the monetary goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was met or exceeded each year.

Mrs. Murray had an abundance of interests. One of her favorites was volunteer work with school children. After her retirement from teaching and before the onset of her final illness, she participated in the West Jones Elementary reading program. One day a week during the school year she read to a fourth grade class. She carefully selected stories that presented classic inspirational character-building lessons in living.

Travel was another interest. But, fear of flying and large expanses of water limited her destinations for decades until she decided to overcome both in order to see the inside passage of Alaska, experience the locks of the Panama Canal, view the sculptures at Mount Rushmore, and feel the spray of Niagara Falls.

Other interests included reading to be informed of current events and for sheer entertainment -- Agatha Christie was one of her favorite authors, collecting art by Mississippi artists, and walking. Walking was especially enjoyed. She and friends built up to four miles a day. They walked every day the weather permitted.

Mary Ann Reddoch Murray died on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, at her home after a lengthy illness. Funeral services will be Friday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Summerland Baptist Church. Visitation will be from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. at the church. Burial will follow at the Hebron Community Cemetery. She is survived by her daughter Yvonne Murray of Natchez, Mississippi; her sisters Elizabeth Reddoch Langley and Judith Reddoch Wingo both of Taylorsville, Mississippi; and numerous cherished nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Murray was predeceased in death by her husband Charles H. Murray. The day of her funeral is the anniversary of their marriage. She is, also, predeceased by her parents Mary Wilson Reddoch and Longino Reddoch and her brother Dr. James Wilson Reddoch of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Pallbearers will be Fred Allen Domingue, Jr.; James Daniel Elledge, Jr.; Aubrey Lynn Knight; Wayne E. Loftin, John Clay Murray; John Clay Murray, Jr.; and William DeWitt Tilden.

Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. To view and sign the family guestbook, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Anyone wishing to make a memorial in honor of Mrs. Murray may send a contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at Summerland Baptist Church.

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ I wish that I was able to attend the funeral for my beautiful Aunt Mary Ann. I remember what fun I used to have at her house when I was a little girl. You were one of the strongest women I knew. I love you very much, and I will always carry you in my heart. Love, "Little Laine"

Laine Wingo Johnson - August 14, 2014 at 10:04 AM

CI

“ I used what she taught me in almost everyday of my life. She was the sweetest and softest spoken teacher I think I ever had. I have thought of her often over the years.

Carol Blakeney Ingram - August 10, 2014 at 09:19 PM

BK

“ Dear Judy,
We're so sorry to hear about the loss of your sister. We will keep you and her family in our thoughts.
With love, Bill and Carlene

Bill and Carlene Koch - August 10, 2014 at 03:14 PM

M7

“ An impressive and beautiful soul here on Earth..a lovely and talented true Southern Lady. It was truly an honor to have known her during my teenage and young adult years. Mrs Murray was dearly loved as a teacher and was a constant mentor to many.

Mary English Owens THS Class of 76 - August 09, 2014 at 02:45 PM

KF

“ *She was a wonderful teacher, and person.*

Kevin and Rhonda (Ivy) Ford - August 08, 2014 at 11:06 PM

JC

“ *I hate I couldn't come in person but I loved Miss Mary Ann. She was always so sweet to me. We always shared a hug whenever we saw each other. Although it's a sad time for us, she is rejoicing in heaven & that's a blessing for everyone!*

Jennifer Cline - August 08, 2014 at 04:59 PM

HC

“ *I will never forget Mary Ann Murray. She taught me typing in high school, but more than that, she taught me how a true lady conducts herself. I never heard her speak a bad word about anyone. I was honored to be a member of the same chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as she. She will always hold a special place in my heart. May God hold all of this family close now and in the coming days.*

Helen Oakes Copeland - August 08, 2014 at 04:12 PM

MM

“ *Your mother had a tender and beautiful heart. I know you will miss her, Yvonne. You took great care of her and were steadfast in your love for her. It's never easy when death is slow and there are so many hard choices that have no clear answers. Be at peace. Love your Cousin, Mary Mac*

Mary and Dale MacCurdy - August 07, 2014 at 09:24 PM

KM

“ *Mrs. Murray was one of the most precious women I've ever met. I enjoyed her typing class at Taylorsville High School, but more than that, I enjoyed her gentle spirit and kind heart. Praying for the family.*

Kristen Holifield Martin - August 07, 2014 at 09:43 AM

MB

“ *Yvonne, We loved Mrs. Murray as a great and favorite teacher as well as a dear friend. Mrs. Murray influenced us so that we both majored in Business Education. Tommie is in Forrest General Hospital and whether she is in the hospital or out, I am with her. Therefore we will not be able to attend the funeral. You are in our prayers. God bless you.*

M. Sue Sherman & Tommie S. Boykin - August 06, 2014 at 11:33 PM

KM

“ *Mary Ann Reddoch Murray*

Kevin and Sarah MacCurdy - August 06, 2014 at 08:57 PM