



Mattie Elizabeth McCray

AUG 8, 1931 - OCT 3, 2007



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Mattie Elizabeth McCray

AUG 8, 1931 - OCT 3, 2007

Mattie Elizabeth McCray, 76, of Springdale, Arkansas died Wednesday, October 03, 2007 at Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale. She was born in Knoxville, Tennessee on August 8, 1931 to Robert Taylor and Katie Newcomb Lyons. She attended the University of Tennessee, where she received a BA in English in 1953. She moved to Oklahoma City shortly after, marrying George McCray in December of 1955. She completed work on an MA while there. She began teaching, her life-long career, at Young High School. She returned to Knoxville briefly, teaching at Noris High School. In 1964, she moved to Fort Smith, joining her sister Katie Dyer, who was already living in Ft. Smith with her husband, Jack Dyer and their two sons, Steve and Christopher. Ms. McCray taught first at Kimmons Jr. High School, where her first student teacher, Paula Bevill, became a lifelong friend. She later taught for many years at Fort Smith Northside High School, until she retired from teaching in 1996. She was recognized as Ft. Smith's Outstanding Educator in 1982; she was especially happy directing school plays and supervising debate teams.

She is survived by her two daughters; Adrienne McCray of Fort Smith and Suzanne McCray of Fayetteville; by her grandchildren Bobbie Ann Kelly (husband Jonathan Kelly) and Danielle Grober (husband Michael Grober) of Fort Smith, Bob Cochran of Brooklyn, New York, Shannon Phillips (husband Sam Phillips) of San Francisco, Masie Cochran (husband Duncan Skiles) of Manhattan, New York, and Jesse and Taylor Cochran of Fayetteville; and by her son-in-law Robert Cochran of Fayetteville. Also surviving are her sister Katie Dyer of Fort Smith, her nephew Steven Dyer of Salisbury, North Carolina, and her two great nieces, Kelly Dyer of Omaha, Nebraska and Tracy Dyer of Chicago, Illinois. She was thrilled when her one great grandchild Robert Samuel (Robin) Phillips, was born in San Francisco in August. Other family survivors include Ann Gorbet of Oklahoma City, Larry and Ruby Rogers of Tuttle, Oklahoma, Darrell McCray of Clinton, Oklahoma, and Carolyn Hill of Manhattan, Kansas. She leaves many friends (including the dear friends of her reading club) and former students.



Obituary

Mattie Elizabeth McCray

AUG 8, 1931 - OCT 3, 2007

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, October 8, 2007 at St. Catherine's at Bell Gable (2140 Stone Chapel Lane, off Mt. Comfort Road in Fayetteville) with Rev. Doug Simmons officiating. Visitation will be held at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory (4520 N. Crossover Road, Fayetteville, AR) from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM Sunday. Memorial contributions may be made to Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale, Arkansas, through Nelson-Berna Funeral Home.

To sign the online guestbook go to www.nelsonberna.com

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home and Crematory of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Visitation Date Time Sunday, October 7, 2007 2:00 PM till 4:00 PM Visitation Location Chapel of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home. Service Date Time Monday, October 8, 2007 2:00 PM Service Location At the St. Catherine's at Bell Gable, 2140 Stone Chapel Lane, off of Mt. Comfort Road in Fayetteville.



SA

Sallie Langford (Acquaintance) posted:

Please know that Mattie will be missed within the speech community. I had the opportunity to work with her a few times and even attend a Baylor University Debate workshop with she and Katie. They were so funny. I had more fun with them than I had had in a long time - especially at something as seemingly dry as a debate camp. Mattie had a smile for everyone and a wicked sense of humor. I know that heaven is a brighter place with Mattie. God bless you all. Sallie Langford

August 30 at 9:12 AM

ES

Ella Lambey (Co-Worker Of Suzanne) posted:

God bless you now and in the days to come. May He forever comfort you and keep you in His care. Ella

August 30 at 9:12 AM

EH

Ede Hogue posted:

Suzanne and family: I am so sorry for your loss. I hope you find comfort in your wonderful memories. Know that your mother will continue to be an important part of your life as you will think of her every day. I hope those thoughts make you smile and give you peace. She will always guide you and yours. Ede Hogue

August 30 at 9:12 AM

MA

Mona Fuller Alonzo (Acquaintance) posted:

Dear McCray family, I appreciated Mattie's kindness to my mother Ivey Fuller (grandmother of Paula), particularly in Mom's last years. Mattie was so good to sit with her at the nursing home and to support Paula. Mona

August 30 at 9:12 AM

MA

Margaret Smith (Acquaintance) posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Mattie is missed here at the Gardens at Arkanshire but I am glad to have met her. I was one of Mattie's "Guardian Angels" here on Third Floor South so if I can help in any way now, please let me know.

August 30 at 9:12 AM



Tribute Wall

Mattie Elizabeth McCray

AUG 8, 1931 - OCT 3, 2007

JP

Jamon Pruitt, Md (Physician) posted:

My thoughts and prayers go out to her family

August 30 at 9:12 AM

JS

Jannetta (Britt) Carney (Student) posted:

I am a speech/debate and drama teacher today due partly to my experiences in Mrs. McCray's classes. I remember her love and dedication to her craft and to her students. She was such an encouraging teacher. My fondest memories of junior high are from her classes. She will be greatly missed.

August 30 at 9:12 AM

CT

Conley E. Hall (Fellow Teacher) posted:

I first met Mattie when our students, hers from Kimmons JHS and mine from Ramsey JHS, would compete against each other in local oratory contests. I admit I was intimidated by her back then. But through our mutual endeavors with the Ark. State Communication Association and other settings, we became fast friends. It's like Sallie Langford said, Mattie was funny!!! She always had a hilarious story or comment. I truly respected her teaching talents and admit that I learned a thing or two from her along the way. I had lost touch with Mattie over the years, but often thought of her humor, her talents, and I even use some of her lesson plans in my oral comm. class at Southside these days!!! I heard about Mattie's passing at church this morning from one of her former students, Charlotte Scott. Charlotte, a lawyer now, commented that when she has to speak well, she certainly can, and Mattie is the reason. I am sure there are thousands of former students who can offer similar testimonies. I will miss Mattie, but know that I will respect and admire her for the rest of my days. I wonder what stories she's entertaining St. Peter with....???? Conley Hall Southside High School Speech and Debate

August 30 at 9:12 AM



Tribute Wall

Mattie Elizabeth McCray

AUG 8, 1931 - OCT 3, 2007



Dovie Johnson (Colleague) posted:

Dear Suzanne, Family, and Friends, I am so sorry, to hear the death of your loved one. I remember meeting your mother, with you in Dillard's. She was s-o-o sweet and pleasant. Mothers are so cherished, that when a heartbreaking occasion occurs such as this, it is never easy to cope - my personal experience. Jesus experienced how painful it is to lose a loved one in death - his friend Lazarus, that he gave way to tears. - John 11:1, 32-33, 35. But, Jesus helps us understand what death is comparable to - John 11:11. Therefore, you and your family can look forward to seeing your mother again. - John 5:28, 29. Know that you and your family are in my prays. Sincerely Sorry, Your neighbor and colleague Dovie Johnson

August 30 at 9:12 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mattie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

