



Dr. Katherine Parrish

November 30, 2014

Dr. Katherine E. Hornsby Parrish, 84, of Cape Girardeau died Sunday, November 30, 2014, at Southeast Hospital surrounded by her family. She was born March 5, 1930, in Roanoke, Alabama, daughter of Alma C. Philpott. She attended High School in Roanoke, Alabama, Millsaps College, in Jackson, Mississippi, and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. While earning her master's degree in English at the University of Tennessee, she met and married William Bruce Parrish. They were married in Knoxville, Tennessee on October 26, 1962. In 1964 they both accepted teaching positions in the English department at Southeast Missouri State University and made the move to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. While teaching full time, as well as being a wife and mother, she earned her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, an accomplishment of which she was very proud. She served as Faculty Advisor to Sigma Tau Delta, the honorary English society; was a charter member of Phi Kappa Phi; served as chair for five years to the English Department Library Committee; served as a Program Reviewer for English Education programs through the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education; serving as appointed member of the Commission on the Preparation and Professional Development of English Language Arts Teachers of the Conference of English Education; becoming a charter member of the Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar; participated in numerous programs and workshops of the National Council of Teachers of English; served as acting chairperson for the

Department of English before retirement in the Fall of 1999. She shared her knowledge and love of literature, language, and writing to thousands of students and was known as one of the English Department's "unforgettable characters." She was a force to be reckoned with and her sense of humor, wit, accent, and Fish House Punch will be sorely missed by family, friends, and former colleagues. Loving survivors include her daughter and biggest joy in life, Catherine "Leigh" Shoemaker (Tyson) of Cape Girardeau; sister-in-law, Margaret Parrish of Kailua, Hawaii; sister-in-law, Mary McClendon of Beaverton, Alabama; a niece and several nephews; and her devoted and much loved dog and cat, Brownie and Misty. She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years; her mother; her brother, Rev. Leroy McClendon; and brother-in-law, James D. Parrish. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home. The funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the funeral home, with the Rev. Kim L. Ferguson officiating. Entombment will be in Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army or the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri. The family wishes to thank her longtime caretaker and friend, Tonya Thompson, for her dedicated care and compassion. The family also wishes to thank the caring staff and nurses from Crown Hospice and Southeast Hospital.

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Leigh, I consider myself fortunate to have known both your mother and dad. They loved you more than life itself; and, when I babysat you many times as a college student, I could always see the adoration and unconditional love they had for you. My memories of your parents remain so vivid in my mind and I wouldn't take anything for those happy times I spent with them.

Lynne Loveless - May 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Parrish family and friends. I remember babysitting for Leigh many times and how wonderful the family was to me. Bruce and Katherine were such good friends of my parents and I know my Dad is now enjoying their company.

Lexi Grisvard Buente - April 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I was in Dr. Parrish's english class at SEMO in the early 80's. I knew she was from the south as I could detect the ever present accent. She was a wonderful teacher and a wonderful woman. My condolences to all of you. Seth Siemers

Seth Siemers - April 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Leigh, I knew your mother and father when you were a child and I was a grad student at Cape. They were very kind and generous to me and I will always remember them. Jim

Jim Wagner - March 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I had the honor of being a student of your father and mother back in the 70's. Katherine's influence and belief in me was instrumental in molding my successful 38 year teaching career. I am proud to have been her student and friend. You will be missed! With love, Cindy Thomas SEMO class of 1975

Cindy Thomas Guerin - March 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ My heart truly goes out to Katherine's family, especially her daughter, Leigh, who was so devoted to her parents. Katherine was a vibrant, admirable, talented strong, unique, and fascinating woman. There is much to admire about her. It is very sad to say goodbye.

Royce & Kevin Kessel - March 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM