



Mrs. Marie E. Thomas

October 8, 1932 - December 29, 2018

Marie Ellen Willis Thomas died peacefully on December 29, 2018 at the age of 86. Born in Guernsey County, Ohio on October 8, 1932 in a home her father built, she was the daughter of the late John Russell and Glenna Stevens Willis. Marie lived a life of service to others. She spent her childhood and early adult life in Ohio where she graduated from Greenville High School before attending Miami University where she received both Bachelor of Science and Master degrees in Education. She put these degrees to wonderful use by enriching the lives of hundreds of students during her 34-year teaching career – starting with 13 years teaching the First Grade before graduating to the Second Grade for her remaining years before retiring in 1994. She was the consummate teaching professional, winning Teacher of the Year in 1978, and being blessed over the years with many former students reconnecting with her to express their appreciation for her positive influence on their early lives. She was a charter member of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in 1977 and since served as an Elder, Sunday School Superintendent, Circle Leader, Bazaar Co-Chair, etc. She also spent many years volunteering in local hospitals. Marie enjoyed traveling, playing cards with others, and working puzzles. Most of all she enjoyed her family and large group of wonderful friends.

She is survived by her loving husband of nearly 65 years, Dewight E. Thomas, daughter Debbie and her husband Chuck Beam, son Steve and his wife Susan, and her brother Dr. Craig Willis. In addition, she is survived by her four grandchildren and their families – Chris and wife Amanda Beam, Abbey Beam, Katie Beam and husband Kyle Miller and Laura Beth Thomas and husband Michael McClendon – and three greatgrandchildren – Mason Miller, Madelyn Beam and Amelia Beam.

A funeral service will be held at 12:30 o'clock, Thursday, January 3rd, at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, 125 Sparkleberry Ln, Columbia, followed by interment at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery at 2 o'clock.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 o'clock Wednesday evening at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext, Columbia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, 125 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia, SC, 29229.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

2

Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel
7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

JAN **Funeral Service** 12:30PM

3

Spring Valley Presbyterian Church
125 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia, SC, US, 29229

Comments



“ I'm blessed to have the memories of conversations and card games with Aunt Marie, especially at her home in Columbia when my family would visit. Particularly I remember speaking with her about teaching. As a veteran teacher, she had great advice for me when I was just getting started as a teaching assistant in grad school. What I most remember her telling me was to really get to know the students in order to help each student develop at her or his own pace. Of course, she modeled that level of attention with me and my brothers through her (in)famous questions, which, although they might have made us squirm as teenagers, in retrospect I understand were important ways of showing care and thoughtfulness about our lives. What could matter more?

Rest in peace, Aunt Marie. Much love to your family and friends.

Bruce Dean Willis - January 08, 2019 at 10:10 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marie E. Thomas.



January 01, 2019 at 10:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marie E. Thomas.



January 01, 2019 at 09:12 PM



“ My heart breaks for all of you in the loss of your dear wife, mother and grandmother. She was a dear friend and as many of you know, we were backyard neighbors for 47 years. She was a very caring friend. I grieve with you and Tom joins me in sending our love and sympathy. I will see you at visitation and if there is anything we can do before you get to Columbia, please let me know. Much Love, Marilyn Summers

Marilyn Summers - December 30, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ Marie was a big part of my life. I loved her as a sister. My years of teaching with Marie was such a special time of my life. My sympathy goes out to her family and many friends. Much love, Pat Thomas

pat thomas - December 31, 2018 at 11:06 AM



“ Our deepest sympathies to the Thomas families. We will miss Marie very much and hope your memories will ease your grief during this difficult time.

Bob and Mary Jane McClendon



Mary Jane McClendon - December 30, 2018 at 01:04 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the DeWight Thomas family! We love you and are here for you!

Marie Waldrop
RCSD Reserve



Marie Waldrop - December 29, 2018 at 08:11 PM