



Mrs. Martha E. Hudgens

June 17, 1939 - May 18, 2019

Martha Crosswell Eargle Hudgens entered into eternal rest on May 18, 2019, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Dr. John Hampton Hudgens II. A quintessential Southern lady, Martha was beloved by family, friends, and community. "Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye, in every gesture, dignity and love." (John Milton)

The greatest joy of Martha's life was being John's wife, loyally and enthusiastically supporting him throughout his career in education and sharing in the blessings of their family. She was a devoted and beloved mother to son John Hampton Hudgens III (Karen) and daughter Lillian Hudgens Dennis, and a proud and loving MeMa to her five grandsons: Timothy Eric Dennis, Jr. (Marlee), John Hampton Hudgens IV, Joshua Hudgens Dennis, Luke Gerard Hudgens, and Nicholas Crosswell Hudgens.

Born June 17, 1939 in Orangeburg, SC, Martha was the only daughter of the late Dr. Homer Melton Eargle and Claribel Parham Eargle. She was predeceased by her brother Homer Melton Eargle Jr., and is survived by her brothers Charles Parham Eargle (Marie) and Edwin Sylvester Eargle II (Pam), as well as brothers-in-law Dr. Roy Edward Hudgens, Jr. (Lottie), John Warren Edwards, and Dr. Patrick Harley Dennis (Myrtle Ann). She was also very close with numerous nieces and nephews.

Martha graduated from Orangeburg High School in 1957. She met her husband John at Newberry College, where she caught his eye wearing a red dress, which became her signature color. An Honor Graduate in 1961, Martha was a member of the Newberry College Singers, Chairman of the Women's Council, and a member of Who's Who. Having majored in Education, she taught in Orangeburg District 5, and in Lexington/Richland 5. Martha was also a member for more than 50 years of the PEO Sisterhood, a women's organization with a focus on providing educational opportunities for female students worldwide.

Always active in her church and steadfast in her faith, Martha was a childhood member of

Orangeburg Lutheran Church where she was baptized and served as a Caravaner for the Luther League of America, the church's official youth organization. As a member of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, Martha served as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon and Elder. She also served on many committees, noting her favorite was the Flower Committee. In recognition of her commitment, Martha was awarded a Presbyterian Women Lifetime Membership.

Exposed to the joys of travel at an early age, Martha relished many wonderful trips throughout Europe shared with her husband, experiences that infused her tastes in fashion, decor, art and floral design. A consummate hostess, Martha loved to entertain in her home, where each event was elegant and festive due to her attention to detail. Her home was always welcoming and often filled with flowers from her garden — especially her winter camellias and fragrant summer roses. She was a member of WildeWood Garden Club and pursued a lifelong love of gardening. She will be missed but will live on in our hearts: “God gave us memory so we may have roses in December.” (J.M. Barrie)

The family would like to thank Retha Scott for her loving care of Martha, Dr. Floyd Ashton Cribbs, IV for his support and guidance, and the aides in the Memory Care Unit for their care and assistance.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Martha will be held at 11:00, Saturday, May 25, at Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, 6500 Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206, with a reception to follow in the Church Parlor. The Rev. Dr. Ellen Fowler Skidmore will be officiating. Visitation will be Friday, May 24, 5:00-7:00 at home, 221 Beaver Dam Road, Columbia, SC 29223. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family.

Memorials can be made to the John and Martha Hudgens Endowed Scholarship at Newberry College, 2100 College St., Newberry, SC 29108 or to Forest Lake Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden, 6500 N. Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206.

Events

MAY **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

25

Forest Lake Presbyterian

6500 N Trenholm Rd, Columbia,, SC, US, 29206

Comments



“ John, Baron and I send our prayers for strength at this sad time. God’s Peace, Sue Holmes, Cashiers, NC



Sue Holmes - May 30, 2019 at 04:52 AM



“ Jack and Anaya Meszoros purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Martha E. Hudgens.



Jack and Anaya Meszoros - May 24, 2019 at 09:17 AM



“ James P. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Martha E. Hudgens.



James P. - May 23, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ Elegance, generosity, kindness - these are the words I think of when I think of Mrs. Hudgens. She was one of a kind and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Dr. John, Johnny, Lillian, and their families.

Becky Hunter - May 22, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ I remember shopping for fresh flowers with Mrs. Hudgens, years ago during a visit with Lillian. She certainly had a talent for flower arrangements. She made me, and my girls feel so welcome in her beautiful home. A visit we will always remember. Praying for peace and happy memories Lillian, for you and your whole family.

Bonnie Martin - May 22, 2019 at 10:24 AM



“ She was a bright and shining soul, always wearing a smile. Sending prayers of comfort to you. Stephen and Lauren Flynn

Stephen and Lauren Flynn - May 21, 2019 at 09:01 AM



“ Steve and I thought she was such a grand lady! We will miss her bright smile and kind words. Our prayers for John and her family. Sincerely, Steve and Leslie Sligh



Leslie Sligh - May 20, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ To: Dr. Hudgens and Family,
Sending our deepest condolences in the loss of sweet, sweet Martha. May God continue to bless and comfort each of you during this special time. She's gone from our sight, but never from our Hearts and Mind!
Sincerely, David and Peggy Barnes-Winder and Family!



Peggy Barnes Winder - May 20, 2019 at 11:07 AM



“ I am so sorry to learn of Martha’s death on Saturday. I remember her as a gracious Southern lady, always smiling and friendly as she hosted many Symphony League meetings at her home. I worked with John when he was a consultant for the SC Department of Education as we traveled the state to provide information on how to improve SAT scores in our state. Martha lost her brother Mel in October so this has been a challenging year for the Hudgens. All of you are in my prayers as I remember a beautiful lady and family. Carolyn Donges

carolyn Donges - May 20, 2019 at 09:28 AM



“ My dear friend was such a blessing to everyone who knew her. Her beauty was on the outside but shined brightly from the inside. John and Martha were an example of what marriage should be. She and John have always been so generous in their friendship to Ron and I. I will miss her. My heart aches for everyone in the family. Heaven is blooming with happiness at her arrival. Love to all

Sandy Hill - May 22, 2019 at 04:49 PM



“ Dean and I are saddened to learn of Martha's passing. She was a plovly gracious lady. Dean will always remember her as she taught him to make onion rings. Love to the Hudgens family.

Dea.n and Sharon Ganis.

Sharon - May 23, 2019 at 12:44 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know my thoughts and prayers go out for you and you family. Jan Union Carnes

Jan Union Carnes - May 23, 2019 at 07:18 PM



“ John, I am so sorry to hear about Martha. She was so pretty and an amazing lady. Every time I saw her she was so nice. I know she will be missed by everyone.

Brenda Reynolds

Brenda Reynolds - May 23, 2019 at 10:04 PM