



Sammie W. Clay

March 20, 1943 - January 28, 2018

Sammie W. Clay passed away on January 28, 2018, surrounded by family, after a long battle with cancer. A native of Haskell, Texas, she was the youngest daughter of Delma and Elizabeth Williams. She was a noted mentor and teacher, loved by her students and colleagues. In 1980 she received the Outstanding Teaching Excellence Award from Richardson Independent School District, recognizing her ability in planning, motivating, teaching, evaluating and advising students in the classroom. In addition, not only was Sammie consistently voted Most Influential Teacher by the top ten graduates of Berkner High School, she was also chosen in 1990 and again in 2000 by two of her students to be recognized by Who's Who Among America's Teachers. The students and staff of Berkner High School regularly acknowledged her dedication during her 31 years of service from 1971 to 2002. Sammie, a lifelong learner, traveled the world visiting every continent, making longlasting friendships along the way. By collecting genuine experiences, she was able to share those in the classroom with her students. On every trip she purchased teaching aids to enhance her lessons, and her students looked forward to seeing the treasures she would bring back. She is survived by her devoted husband William Clay, brother Jackson Williams, Alan Clay and wife Josie, Chrissy Stover and husband Eric, Nina Dobbs, and nephews Ben Williams and Barry Casey. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the cancer research foundation of their choice. The visitation for Sammie will be from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on Sunday, February 4, 2018 at Restland Funeral Home. The funeral service for Sammie will be at 11:00 AM on Monday, February 5, 2018 at The Memorial Chapel at Restland Funeral Home.

Comments



“ The years of 1958-59 were our teenage years making memories, having fun and good times at old RHS and a little country church called Pinkerton. She was a wonderful person and one of the nicest I have ever met.

Billy Wayne Neeley - February 08, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ Mrs. Clay was a rare gem. She's one of those teachers I compare all of my children's teachers too. Those of us had the privilege to learn from her were truly the lucky ones. She loved her job and we were all the better for it. Some of my most favorite memories were reciting the Lord's Prayer in Olde English (and I still remember it) or acting out Animal Farm. I remember how she loved and treasured her friends. I hope she knew just how impactful she was as on all our lives. She was special.

Kim (Johnson) Guinn - February 05, 2018 at 10:30 PM



“ I worked with Sammie many years ago at Berkner High School. She was so kind and helpful to me as a fellow English teacher. The beautiful quilt she gave me when I married is still on the bed in my guest bedroom. I have thought of her often and am so sorry to hear of her passing.

Lorrie Hill-Denton - February 05, 2018 at 03:27 PM



“ Dear Jack, Dub & family, We wish to express our sorrow for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Dianne, LaRee & families

Dianne Nadolsky - February 05, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ Dub,
We are so saddened to learn of Sammie's passing. She was a delight to know and will be greatly missed. You and the family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Pam and Taber Bearden

Pam Bearden - February 04, 2018 at 11:16 PM



“ Dub, We are so saddened to learn of Sammie’s passing. She was truly precious and unique. She had great impact not only on her students but on those of us who had the pleasure of working with her and counting her as a sweet friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of the family. Pam and Taber Bearden

Pam and Taber Bearden - February 04, 2018 at 11:07 PM



“ I send my sympathy to your family—may you find peace as you celebrate the life of a remarkable woman and teacher! I remember interviewing her for an article in the school newspaper at Berkner and feeling lucky to be able to talk to her for a long time. She was not only interesting; she was also interested—in the world, in literature, and in her students. She taught me to love literature and encouraged me to study English for my undergraduate and graduate work.

Amy Raynor Brinton - February 04, 2018 at 06:37 PM



“ I have thought often of Sammie the last several weeks. She has always been one of my favorite people. Prayers of comfort for her family.

Sharon Sanders - February 04, 2018 at 06:31 PM



“ My sincere condolences on behalf of the Loftin family. She was such a great teacher. I feel lucky to have been in her class in 11th grade. Peace. Bob Loftin Jr.

Bob Loftin Jr. - February 04, 2018 at 04:36 PM



“ Sammie was an excellent teacher and a quality person. She will be missed by all who knew her. She will continue to be an inspiration for all of those entering the teaching profession. Please accept our most sincere condolences.

Bob and Cindy Stamps - February 04, 2018 at 03:56 PM



“ Dub, I am so sorry to hear of Sammie's passing. She was a beloved colleague and mentor to me both at Berkner HS and also Parish Episcopal. My heart goes out to you and the rest of the family. May the wonderful memories you shared bring you comfort during this difficult time.

Jim Kondysar - February 04, 2018 at 03:26 PM



“ Sammie was a special person who found a lesson plan in every adventure. I traveled with her on one of her trips to England and there was never a dull moment.

Lucy Log - February 03, 2018 at 04:35 PM



“ Walking the neighborhood with my dogs I have missed her conversation and traveling exploits as have my puppies who she greeted with friendly banter. Our prayers to you Dub.

Julie Schaefer - February 03, 2018 at 09:19 AM



“ I am saddened to hear of Mrs. Clay's passing...she was a wonderful teacher and a more wonderful friend who helped me immensely during a time of shock and grief for all of us at Berkner in the 1984-85 school year. She will be tremendously missed. My sincere condolences and prayers go out to her family and friends.

Eva (Davis) Cozby - February 03, 2018 at 09:07 AM



“ Dub,
Jan and I are so sorry for your loss. We will keep you and your family in our prayers.
Sincerely,
Roger and Jan

Roger Holland - February 02, 2018 at 05:34 PM



“ My condolences to the family. She was my senior English teacher at Berkner High School and one of the best. She is one of the reasons I majored in English in college and contemplated a teaching career of my own. I know she touched a lot of lives with her passion and gift for teaching.

Rhonda Parks Jeffers - February 02, 2018 at 04:24 PM



“ Sammie was an excellent teacher and I am proud to have taught with her at Parish Episcopal. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Margaret McEwen - February 02, 2018 at 03:50 PM



“ Sammie was a great friend to me when I came to Parish Episcopal School. She was also dearly loved by the rest of the staff and all her students. Not only was she a gifted teacher, she was fun too. She made a positive mark on so many lives.

Margie Nancarrow - February 02, 2018 at 02:15 PM



“ Mrs. Clay was an amazing woman and a fabulous teacher. She inspired so many of us during her time at Berkner High School. I will never forget her.

Heather Tucker LaPorta - February 01, 2018 at 07:16 PM



“ Mrs. Clay was one of my favorite teachers of all time. I am sad to hear of her passing. Sending happy memories to all who knew and loved her.

Heidi LaRochelle - Berkner, 1991 - February 01, 2018 at 07:03 PM



“ Sammie was a close friend for many years, she's intigated getting my wife a I together over 55 years ago, we miss you Sammie

Bobby O'Neal - February 01, 2018 at 06:13 PM



“ Mrs. Clay was one of the very best! She was set the bar high but did all she could to make sure all her students reached her standards! My heart goes out to her and her family during this difficult time. Kind Regards, Erika Tomotaki Chee

Erika - February 01, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ Know that all the family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary Lou (Jetton) Lane - February 01, 2018 at 05:01 PM



“ Mrs. Clay was my favorite high school teacher! She will be missed.

Jason Kincaid - February 01, 2018 at 04:51 PM



“ Aunt Sammie you will forever be in my heart. You have always been very special to me and my girls.

Christy Taylor - January 30, 2018 at 08:00 PM



“ McMurry University extends heartfelt condolences on the passing of Ms. Clay. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Nancy Smith - January 30, 2018 at 01:42 PM