



Ms Lydia Kay Taylor

November 17, 1947 - January 29, 2021

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Lydia Kay Taylor, 73, passed away on January 29, 2021, in Chestertown, MD, where she had lived near family for six years. Lydia was born November 17, 1947, in Blackwell, OK, to the late Anilee Turvey Taylor and Frank R. Taylor. She lived and worked in Oklahoma City, OK, from 1969 until moving to Chestertown in 2015.

Lydia had a constant smile and a contagious laugh that always made her fun to be around. She grew up with her family in Tonkawa, OK, and graduated from Tonkawa High School in 1965 before attending the University of Oklahoma where she graduated in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Education.

Growing up helping her father at her parent's farm implement and marine business, Lydia learned many skills. Whether driving a tractor or truck, raking hay, or backing a trailer, Lydia became adept with machines and was usually in charge of the family ski boat on their frequent visits to Lake Ponca. She was active in Tonkawa school activities, attended Girls State, played basketball and was very skilled at playing the piano. Like her mother and sisters, Lydia received the D.A.R. Good Citizenship award in her senior year of high school.

Lydia loved her career of teaching math at Hoover and Western Heights junior high schools in Oklahoma City where she made many friends and touched countless lives. She derived great joy from helping students learn the "math facts" as they conquered challenging concepts in algebra, and then watching those young people grow in their own lives and careers. She loved working afternoon and evening school games when she would keep the book, run the clock, or take tickets and cheer. Lydia retired from teaching in 2012.

Lydia attended every high school reunion, cherished many longtime friends, and filled her

life with her work, friends, and family. Lydia loved the water and the beach and most years would spend summers in Chestertown with her sister and her family.

Lydia was preceded in death by her sister Lauralea "LT" Taylor Goodall who passed away in 2014. Lydia is survived by brother-in-law Richard L. Goodall and his children Taylor Goodall and his wife Jennifer, and Kate Goodall Gray and husband Kenny, and children Cole Harold and Zachary Frank, all of Chestertown, MD; her sister Frances "Fran" Taylor Billingsley and her husband Grant, of Midland, TX; and their daughter Anne Taylor Billingsley, of Austin, TX.

The family expresses its sincere appreciation to her caregivers and the staff of Heron Point of Chestertown, MD.

Due to the impact of the Coronavirus and in an effort to maintain safety, services will be held privately at a later date. To commemorate Lydia's life, please go to www.fhnfuneralhome.com where you may watch a life tribute or leave a message for the family. Memorials may be made to Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's (horizonskentqueenannes.org), Tonkawa High School Alumni Association (1007 East Oklahoma Ave, Tonkawa, OK 74653) or to a charity of your choice.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 02 at 02:45 PM



“ After viewing the Tribute Video that her family and Fran placed for all of us to receive and share in - I can see, feel and enjoy the fact that her life, and it's richness remained the same. It is her spirit as "we" knew her - loved her - that her joy, her fabulous personality and style remained. She reminds me of "The Joy of the Lord is your Strength" Nehemiah 8:10 and "She Openeth her mouth with Wisdom: and her Tongue is the the Law of Kindness"! Proverbs 31:26 She was a blessing to us all!

Danny Oden - March 09 at 06:18 PM



“ Lydia Kay Taylor was a gracious and warm spirit, a terrific strong sensitive teacher, who cared about her students, learning and she cared about her fellow teachers. She was constantly at the top of her game and no student could out smart her due to this sensitivity. She was such a team player. When OKCPS Hoover Middle School Principal Bruce Miller went to Western Heights Public Schools as the Superintendent he persuaded Lydia, and fellow HMS teachers Roger Epps, Donnie Voss, and Danny Swopes and more to follow him there. As one young exuberant male, very inquisitive science teacher exclaimed about her “Lydia she is just neat! I mean what else you can say about her”! I would add – “WOW! – What a Beautiful Soul”! Eternity – God’s home - has now been adorned with such a kindred spirit for the heavenly stars! Prayerfully we too - we will see her there also! - HMS Art Teacher Danny A. Oden

Danny Oden - March 09 at 05:04 PM



“ To Fran and her family and to the Goodall family I offer my deepest condolences on Lydia's passing. I knew Lydia many years ago when I was in college and a friend to Fran. Lydia was always very happy and upbeat and she showed me great kindness. As a fellow educator I would see her occasionally at games and we always enjoyed catching up with our lives. She was a wonderful person and I am glad to have known her. Again, my sympathy to all.

Robert Epps
OKC

Robert Epps - March 08 at 09:57 AM



“ I also had the honor of working with Lydia at Hoover Middle School and Western Heights Schools where she was a joy to see her helping her students. she was always happy with her bright smiles and loving self. you would always feel better after talking to her. She will be missed by those who knew her and those who saw what she did for others. RIP my friend. May you go to prepare a place for others.

Bob Austin
fellow teacher

Bob Austin - March 07 at 10:23 AM



“ To Lydia's relatives and many friends, It was sad and a relief on January 29 when Lydia took God's hand to happily join our Mother, Dad and LT plus our Turvey grandparents.in a place near water in Eternity.

Lydia continued to know all the Goodall family and my family by name all eight years of her illness. Thank you God!

She was only physically ill three days before she passed and Hospice was present. Another blessing! My loving opinion is her loss of brain cells made the brain no longer able to communicate with her heart or pancreas.

The last two years of her life she had God's real peace and was without anxiety about her memory loss. It was a gift from God before COVID she had lost the concept of time.

The last 7 months we were able to face time with Lydia with help of her generous social worker. And the Goodalls saw her on the lawn twice and in her room the day before she passed. She never once said, "Well, where have you been?" which eased Kate's and my guilt. God works!

Our family thanks all of you for sharing your stories of your friendship with Lydia. They were more than lovely and precious to us.

With love,
Fran Taylor Billingsley
ft.billingsley@sbcglobal.net
432/638-1122 c

Fran Taylor Billingsley - March 06 at 01:05 PM



“ I am so sad to learn of Lydia's death. She was an amazing person and friend. We shared many, many precious moments together during and after our years together at Western Heights. We had so much fun and created so many memories. My heart goes out to her family. I am so. so sorry.
Pat Belcher (previously Criner)

Pat Belcher - February 24 at 02:55 PM



“ My beautiful Lydia you will always have a special place in my heart. I will miss you dearly. Thoughts prayers to all Lydia's family



Cindy Callahan - February 05 at 09:26 PM



“ 6 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 04 at 02:24 PM



“ Lydia was a lovely lady and loved by all who knew her... as a friend, colleague, student and relative. Her gentleness, grace and winning smile embraced everyone who met her. We team taught together at Hoover just one year, but that was the beginning of over 50 years of a true, honest and deep friendship. Lydia will forever remain in my heart.

Beverly Carpenter

Beverly CARPENTER - February 05 at 12:26 PM



“ This video tribute to Lydia was beautifully prepared from the music to the photos and the special butterflies she loved. It captured the wonderful and beautiful relationships and life Lydia had. Thanks to all involved.

Beverly Carpenter

Beverly CARPENTER - February 05 at 12:33 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Ms Lydia Kay Taylor.



February 04 at 09:36 AM



“ Shirley Foster lit a candle in memory of Ms Lydia Kay Taylor



Shirley Foster - February 03 at 09:17 PM



“ I met Lydia when I was working for LT whom I miss terribly, such a fine person I loved her laugh and spirit , she will be sadly missed !

Shirley Foster - February 03 at 09:17 PM



“ I'm so very sorry for the loss of your precious sister, Fran. I would always love it when Lydia would spend time with us when we visited your house. She was always so vibrant and full of life- and she had the best smile! Prayers for comfort for you and your family. Love, Marcia McSparrin Seals

Marcia Seals - February 03 at 12:54 PM



“ 162 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 02 at 01:47 PM



“ My condolences to Fran and her family. I have fond memories of Lydia from Tonkawa. LaDonna Haen McCune

LaDonna McCune - February 02 at 06:20 AM



“ I will remember Lydia's smile the most. She lit up a room no matter what was going on. She had a passion for teaching and helping others. She will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered. ~ Butch and Elizabeth Britt

Elizabeth Britt - February 01 at 04:56 PM



“ Brian And Paula Ford lit a candle in memory of Ms Lydia Kay Taylor



Brian and Paula Ford - February 01 at 10:58 AM



“ Lydia was a beautiful lady, both inside and out. I had the privilege of working with her at both Hoover and Western Heights. Dozens of staff and hundreds of students were positively touched by gracious woman.

Roger Epps - January 31 at 10:42 PM



“ Lydia was such a beautiful lady. She was always so positive. Students loved and respected her. May she RIP.

Linda Mason - January 31 at 08:44 PM



“ Suzanne Jackson lit a candle in memory of Ms Lydia Kay Taylor



Suzanne Jackson - January 31 at 07:59 PM



“ Ms. Taylor was one of the first teachers that saw my passion for math. She believed in me and helped foster my long long love affair with mathematics. I can honestly say that she is one of the reasons I have my masters degree in mathematics today. She was a great teacher, friend and role model. I can still see her do the “plug it in plug it in” dance when we were learning about variables. She will be greatly missed.

vanessa canfield - January 31 at 07:34 PM