



Matta McDonald

August 10, 1921 - April 24, 2005

Matta Jean McDonald, 83-year-old resident of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died Sunday, April 24, 2005, in Siloam Springs. Born August 10, 1921, in Gentry, Arkansas, she was the daughter of Clarence Ratcliff and Mary Grace Taylor Ratcliff. Mrs. McDonald was a former long-time resident of Huntsville, Arkansas, where she taught at the secondary level in Huntsville Public Schools for 32 years until her retirement. She was a graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a Masters Degree. Matta Jean was a member of First Baptist Church in Huntsville. She was also a member of Arkansas Education Association, National Education Association and Daughters of the American Revolution. Matta Jean married John W. McDonald January 26, 1941, in Gentry. He preceded her in death in 1967. She was also preceded in death by her parents; 1 brother Charles T. Ratcliff; and a special friend, Hill Everett. Survivors include 2 daughters, Jean Ann Moles and husband J. Louis of Benton, Arkansas; Sue Ellen Montgomery and husband Ronald of Siloam Springs; 2 granddaughters, Whitney Allen and husband Dr. James Allen of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; Casey Van Asche and husband Randy of Siloam Springs; 4 great-grandsons, Dalton and Drake Allen both of Broken Arrow; Ransom and Will Van Asche both of Siloam Springs; 2 great-granddaughters, Annabelle Van Asche of Siloam Springs; Riley Allen of Broken Arrow; 1 sister-in-law, Lela Myers of Siloam Springs; 1 aunt, Eva Barnett of Siloam Springs; 2 nephews, Marty Ratcliff and Rob Ratcliff; and 2 nieces, Tammy Bell and Kary Johnston. Funeral services will be 10:00 am. Wednesday at Wasson Memorial

Chapel with Rev. Leslie Elam officiating. Graveside committal will be 2:30 pm. Wednesday at Huntsville Cemetery, Huntsville, Arkansas. Visitation will be Tuesday, April 26, 2005, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs. Arrangements are under the direction of Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Tribute Wall

AH

“ You and your family are in my prayers. May God bless you and your family

April Hughes - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

TP

“ Mrs. McDonald's classroom lectures were laced with winsome wisdom and common sense. There was never a feeling of detachment, as she knew us and our families. We especially recall the high school prom nights when she and Mr. Woodruff would dance around the freshly polished cafeteria floor. What fond memories we both have of Mrs. McDonald!

Tom and Ann Phillips - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

KC

“ Matta Jean was a wonderful teacher and customer of mine. I know she touched many lives and I felt compelled to say how she was inspiritaional in my life.

Kathy Cogger - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

GR

“ We both want to offer our condolences for the loss of your mother. She inspired many students with her intelligence and wit, all the way from band to Arkansas history. She was an important part of our community for many years, and unfortunately, we are seeing many of these mentors passing on. She will be missed.

Glenn and Joyce Roberts - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JW

“ We have so many warm memories of Matta Jean, Johnny. and your family. We talked tonight about how they would come to grandma and Dale's house to play cards and the great fun they had together. Matta Jean was a wonderful teacher and role model. She really knew how to motivate children to learn history. She made the subject come alive. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Jamie Hargis Witmer

Jamie Hargis Witmer - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

MS

“ Reading of Matta Jean's death brought back many memories of the good times we had during the "good old days" in Huntsville. My thoughts & prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Margaret Smith - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

DW

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of wonderful teacher Dennis Williams.

Dennis Williams - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

MK

“ I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother, she was very dear to me and also to the rest of my family. The memories I have of Hunstville will always be special to me. Susie, I found a picture of us from (many) years ago when we were flower girls for a wedding and it brought back so many memories from my childhood, you will always be a dear friend of mine. I love each of you and you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Mary Lynn

Mary Lynn Etheridge Knight - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

MR

“ *Matta Jean was a very dear, close friend of mine. I will treasure the years spent in Huntsville and the friendship we shared even after we moved. The shared vacations, the phone calls, the visits to each other's homes and with our families will be greatly missed but remembered. Both Jubal and I enjoyed the friendship we shared with the McDonald's and those years bring back many happy memories. Much love to each of you, Lois*

Mary Jo Ryan - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

LS

“ *Many years have come and gone but some of my most fond memories include visits or trips with "aunt" Matta Jean. She was a very unique lady and I'll always remember her as the dear, close friend of our family. Tons of laughter from she and my grandmother is what I remember most, those were the days! Take care and know that our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Laura*

Laura Stallings-Meacham - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

PS

“ *I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. Even though she is in a better place, we are never ready to let them go. You and Jean Ann were wonderful daughters and you have to be proud of that. We love you all. Peggy & Shawn McClain*

Peggy McClain & Shawn - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

DJ

“ *You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

David and Susan Jackson - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JM

“ Mrs. McDonald was the best history teacher I had, always asking us to come back the next day with "a hand-shaking acquaintance" with the next person to be studied. Many times over the years I have also been thankful for her teaching me to knit, and for her encouragement with sewing. She was truly a great teacher and a wonderful friend! My deepest sympathy to Susie, Jean Ann, and all her family.

Jane (Allred) Marzewski - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JD

“ THANKS FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES!!

JIM AND PAT DONNOHUE - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

MM

“ Mrs. McDonald was one of my High School teachers..a very good one. Her daughter, Sue Ellen, is a close friend of mine.

Marcia & Jay Martens - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

DM

“ Susie, Ron and family,

I was so sorry to read the paper today and learn of your Mother's death. She was a very special lady and was so blessed to have such a warm and loving family to care for her. You have been such an inspiration to Randy and I in your journey through her illness. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I don't think I can make arrangements at school to attend the service today and Randy is out of town. I am truly sorry we can't be there. We will talk to you soon.

*Love,
Randy and Donna*

Donna Murphy - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JF

“ We are very sorry for your loss.

joe & kathleen fancher - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

RS

“ Dear Jean Ann and family,

My thoughts are with you.

*In sympathy,
Rena*

Rena Sheffer - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

RG

“ God be with all of you. Mrs. McDonald was one of our teachers. She was also a very good friend to me with my mother passed away. I was only sixteen at the time and will always remember her kind words and friendship. Rowena and Ronald Grigg, and our son Ronald Grigg, Jr and his family.

Rowena (Woodward) Grigg - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

RR

“ I have known Mrs. Matta Jean my entire life and she was a wonderful lady, teacher, Christian, and friend. She will be greatly missed by all that ever knew her and were touched by her. God's choir just received a very special member. Her family/friends are in my prayers, God bless you.

Ramona (Grigg) Rathjen - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

GF

“ God's orchestra just got a little bit better with Matta Jean McDonald at one of the organs. Loved being around Miss Mata Jean at church. She was a jewel and we missed her personality when she moved. Will be praying for you in your time of sorrow.

Gary & Wanda Faulkner - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

LJ

“ Jean Ann, I was so sorry to learn of your Mother's death in today's newspaper. May your memories of the past and your faith in God sustain you and your family in the days ahead.

Lou James - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

LE

“ Knew Matta Jean at First Baptist Church at Huntsville for the ten years I was pastor. She played the organ every Sunday and was very faithful member.

We will always remember her and her many sayings.

Leslie and Margaret Elam - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

EM

“ Jean Ann, I saw your Mom's obituary in the paper this morning. I am glad that her suffering is over. Know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Edwina

Edwina Mann - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

SS

“ Matta Jean was always one of my favorite teachers and friends. I got to know Matta Jean because of a special relationship/friendship she had with my mother. I will always remember Matta Jean because of those special times growing up in Huntsville. I will miss her. I'm so sorry I couldn't be there.

Steve and Bonnie Smith - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

AH

“ Mrs. McDonald was a grand teacher who cared about her students and instilled in them the love of learning history. She was always a friend. She was always the same, caring teacher. I wish we had more like her and with the dedication she possessed. She will be missed.

Alvin Herrington - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JB

“ *Mattie Jean was a fine school teacher and we enjoyed having her in the Huntsville Area. My sons were Steve and Dennis Brannan and I think my younger sister, Naomi Donnohue went to her at Huntsville school. Possibly my brother Jim Donnohue. Was so sorry to hear of her passing.*

Jack and Alta Faye Brannan - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

BD

“ *Matta Jean was my teacher and my friend. She was even kind enough to get out at midnight and play the piano for our wedding. She always appeared full of enthusiasm.*

After my dad died in June 1988 apparently Matta Jean and my Mom visited periodically by telephone. Mom looked forward to those visits.

Please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time.

Belinda Whorton Davis - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

BL

“ *I regret the passing of one of my favorite teachers from Huntsville High. i am sorry you lost your mother. My mother is 85 and having health problems, I dread the day that I will lose her . Bill& Sharon Rogers.*

Bill I.Rogers - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JS

“ Mrs. McDonald was my all-time favorite teacher. I have thought a lot about her and everything that she taught me over the years. She was different than most teachers.

I had an appendectomy when I was in high school missed a lot of classes; she held a surprise homecoming party for me at my house. She brought refreshments and games. It meant a lot to me that she would think to do such a nice thing for me. I wish that my grandchildren could have teachers as good as her today.

Jess and Rita Sharp - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

G(

“ I'm so sorry about the passing of your loved one. Please remember that you are in my prayers for the strength to go on.
Love- Gayle and family

Gayle A. Clifton (Maxey) - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

CH

“ My thoughts are with you in this very difficult time. Mrs. McDonald was a wonderful lady.

Charles Hamilton - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

SA

“ Susie and Ron, you could not have done more for Susie's mom.

Sue & Milfred Anglin - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JE

“ What a wonderful lady, teacher & friend. She did everything with vigor.

Joyce (Burnett) Eubanks - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

EB

“ I was fortunate in having had several outstanding teachers. I appreciated them even more after I began my own career in education. Mrs. McDonald was one of those who inspired many of us and for whose service I am grateful. My thoughts and prayers are with her daughters and the rest of the family.

Emma Banks - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

CW

“ Jean Ann,

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless all of you.

Cindy White - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

SH

“ Jean Ann, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
GOD BLESS!

Schemeka Herron - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

NS

“ Ms. McDonald was a lucky woman to have such a caring family.
You are in my thoughts and prayers,
Nancy

Nancy Sessoms - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

CC

“ Jean Ann,

You are in my thoughts and prayers during the loss of your mom.

*Take care
Cindy*

Cindy Caton - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

LE

“ *Jean Ann, my thoughts and prayers are with you. May the memories of your mom be jewels in your treasure chest!*

Loretta Edwards - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

OB

“ *Mrs. McDonald was one of a group of great teachers in Huntsville, who commanded respect and got it! Their legacy lives on in their students who became the next group of leaders and professionals teaching, preaching, farming, caring for the health of the community, and running business and industry. We were inspired to make these choices in life by teachers like Mrs. McDonald who were role models each and every day. They not only gave us the skills to build a life, but also showed us by example, how to pull it all together-- career, family, friends, and community.*

Opal Burton - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM