



Martha Gilstrap McWhorter

August 15, 1929 - March 31, 2024

Martha Jo Gilstrap McWhorter

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On Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, Martha Jo Gilstrap McWhorter of Gaylesville, Alabama, our beloved mother, passed away. She was ninety-four. Martha was the daughter of Fred and Lois Gilstrap of Red Bank, Tennessee, and the wife of Robert Dale McWhorter for 47 years until Dale's death in 1999. Martha was the mother of three children: Robert Dale McWhorter, Jr. (Terri Ann); William Allen McWhorter (Loretta); and Martha Sara McWhorter Shaw (Ralph). Martha had two grandchildren: Andrew Shaw (Natalie) and Emily Shaw Aderholt (Tyler); three great-grandchildren: Daley Aderholt, Owen Shaw and Beau Shaw; one step granddaughter, Sue Hope (Jerry), and five step great-grandchildren, Ray Hope, Tiffany Hope, Logan Hope, Jake Nash (Kayla) and Carter Nash.

Martha was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Dale McWhorter; her parents, Fred and Lois Gilstrap; and her brothers, Sam and Max Gilstrap. Martha is also survived by a special sister-in-law, Louise Nelson, and many loving and wonderful nieces and nephews.

Early in life Martha exhibited a talent for music. She was a graduate of Red Bank High School and Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, with a major in music. Martha taught piano to many students both in and out of the public

education system. In addition to her music instruction, Martha taught fifth grade at Gaylesville School for more than twenty years.

In addition to her vocation, practically from the time she took up residence in Gaylesville, until she was ninety years old, Martha regularly played the piano and organ for services in several local churches: including Gaylesville Methodist Church, Salem Church and Cedar Bluff Methodist Church. She also performed as a member of a local mountain dulcimer orchestra.

Martha devoted her entire life to the service of others through her devotion to and caring for her husband, children, her mother and her extended family; through her teaching career, touching the lives of many students; and through her music ministry in the churches of the community.

A memorial service will be held 2:30 PM Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Stone Chapel at Riverside in Gaylesville with Dr. George Cobb officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:30 PM until the time of service Thursday at Stone Chapel.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life Service

APR 4. 2:30 AM (CT)

Stone Chapel at riverside
355 Riverside LN
Gaylesville, AL 35973

Gathering of Friends

APR 4. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Stone Chapel at riverside
355 Riverside LN
Gaylesville, AL 35973

Tribute Wall

VR

“ I am so sorry to hear this. She was a wonderful lady and teacher. She was my first music teacher as well as my 5th grade teacher. I truly loved Mrs McWhorter.

Vicky Holder Reece - April 05, 2024 at 10:18 AM

IH

“ When I started first grade, my very best friend was Sara McWhorter. Sara was so beautiful with a warm heart and full of kindness. I can vividly remember climbing the stairs and going up to her mother's classroom. Mrs. Martha was always so professional, elegant, and kind. Some years back, I was fortunate enough to spend time with Mrs. Martha as an employee at her church and enjoyed playing the piano with her and watching Mrs. McWhorter and Mrs. Nelson play together. Mrs. Martha was always, always the same, professional, elegant, and most of all, kind. I am a greater person of value, traveling thru this vast universe of time and space because she crossed my path.

Blessings to her family,

Ida-Marie Harp

Ida-Marie Harp - April 04, 2024 at 08:18 AM

CS

“ Carolyn Shaw lit a candle in memory of Martha McWhorter



Carolyn Shaw - April 03, 2024 at 11:25 PM

AH

“ *She was such a sweet sweet person . I loved her so much . One of the best teachers in the world. I am so sorry to hear of her passing . May God bless you all .*

Angie Brown Howard - April 02, 2024 at 04:05 PM