

Nancy Shumate Knieff Miller, PhD

1922-2008

Nancy Shumate Knieff Miller was born on May 18, 1922 to Margaret Carpenter Shumate Hall and Gaston Anderson Shumate, Jr., and she died of natural causes on December 7, 2008.

An original faculty member of W.T. White High School, Nancy was a career English teacher in The Dallas Independent School District for 29 years where she taught Advanced Placement English and established the Humanities Department for the DISD. A graduate of North Dallas High School in 1939, Nancy received her BA from The University of Texas at Austin, her Masters degree in English Literature from North Texas University, and her Ph.D. in Humanities from The University of Texas at Dallas.

Nancy was a true scholar whose passion was learning. Indeed, Kay, as she was affectionately called by her grandchildren, was a veritable sponge, and it was such that she devoted her lifetime to the pursuit of her endless curiosity and knowledge. It was only natural that she committed 29 years to teach so many classic and important works of literature to many high school students in the Dallas area. Recognized by her peers as a dedicated teacher, and committed to lending her hand to greater education, Nancy was asked to be a writer of The Advanced Placement English Exam for the College Entrance Exam Board in Princeton, New Jersey, as well as a writer/grader of the Writing Sample for CEEB. Nancy belonged to a number of honorary scholastic organizations and, among other accolades, was honored as The Ross Perot Recipient For Excellence in Teaching in 1984. In addition, Nancy was a past President of the Texas Huguenot Society, an avid member of Dallas Tri Delta Alumnae group, and a member of several stitching groups. In her later years, she explored her love of needle work, and through her devotion to the craft, she produced many beautiful, artisanal pieces that strictly adhered to the most traditional and historic approaches to stitching, color, and allegory. Nancy was a devoted mother and grandmother and leaves a rich legacy that will be forever cherished by those who knew her. She was an inspiration to her family, and her wit and intellect were endearingly and beautifully intact until the end of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Gaston Shumate; and her daughter, Nancy Michaelis Bourn. She is survived by her daughter, Victoria Michaelis Bartholow and her husband Peter; her son, Frederick Jonathan Knieff, Jr.; her grandchildren Kristen Davis Pena and her husband Jon; Carrie Davis Fabris and her husband Andres; Peter Bartholow, Jr.; David Bartholow; and Sarah Bartholow. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

The family would especially like to thank Dr. Belinda Vicioso, her assistant Catherine Schoemaker, and Nancy's caregiver, Lucy Miller, for the excellent care and love that made

Nancy's final days so peaceful. In addition, the family thanks the excellent staff at Monticello West and Lexington Place.

Donations may be made to The Class of 1968 Endowed Scholarship Fund for Minority Education at The Hockaday School, 11600 Welch Road, Dallas, Texas, 75229 or to The Susan G. Komen Foundation, 11820 Hillcrest Avenue, Dallas, Texas, 75230. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, December 11, at 1:00 o'clock PM in the Memorial Chapel of The Church of the Incarnation, 3966 McKinney Avenue, the Reverend Frederick C. Philputt officiating.

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