



Reba Williams

January 14, 1911 - December 11, 2012

Reba Davis Williams

At the time of year as the Winter Solstice, when the harvest is over and Christmas celebrations begin, Reba Davis Williams died in her home in Newport, Tennessee at the age of 101. She had made plans to celebrate her 102nd birthday, January 14, 2013.

Ms. Williams was born on the family farm off Goodwater Road which is now part of the Parrottsville Community. She moved to the village of Parrottsville in 1919 with her family. Her parents were William Lee Davis (1897-1922) and Lelia Easterly Davis 1877-1967). She received her degree in the spring of 1932 at Asheville Normal Teachers College and began teaching the first grade in the fall of that year at the old Parrottsville School. She taught the fifth and sixth grade at Parrottsville before teaching career in Tuxedo, MC, for one year. She then moved back home to Newport and continued her teaching career at Newport Grammar School, where she taught for 36 years.

"I expected an honest effort from my students and generally got it," said Williams," when you stimulate that 'something special' in a good student, you switch on a twinkle in the eye that will last a lifetime." Williams' grandfather, Frances Marion Easterly (1820-1903), was co-founder of Parrottsville Academy in 1875, and her great-uncle taught in that school which years later became a public school in Parrottsville. In 2009, this award winning educator help delicate the Tennessee Division of Forestry Natural Resource Center

located in Cocke County. To organize her financial contribution to the Center, the Reba D. Williams Classroom now exists. Williams credited a life-long study of trees, wild flowers and birds that lived in our forest, to adding a richness to life. She believed that teaching is a calling, a bit similar in nature to a religious experience.

"Earth's natural resource bases set us apart from the sun, moon, stars and other planets in our solar system. Nature possesses degree of orderliness that serves as a model for living, and educators must deliver this lesson," commented Mrs. Williams. She considered all her students as 'family' and attempted to keep up with their children and grandchildren.

In 1937, she married Floyd W. Williams and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 27, 1987. Floyd's death was December 31, 1987. They were both avid University of Tennessee fans. Reba D. Williams was a Charter Member of the First United Methodist Church, sang in the Church Choir and taught in the Junior Department of Sunday School for many years. Mrs. Williams was a Charter Member of the Newport Music Club for 65 years and enjoyed her piano at home and preformed in the nursing home regularly. She is survived by her niece, Mary Anna Pirozzoli (Charlie) and a host of students. Services will be Friday, December 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church. Burial will be at 2:00 pm Saturday, December 15, 2012 at Oven Creek Methodist Church Cemetery. Friends will gather at the First United Methodist Church, Friday, one hour before the funeral service. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the First United Methodist Church 212 Washington Ave., Newport, TN 37821.

Family and friends may sign the guest register on line at: www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Manes Funeral Home in charge.

Tribute Wall



“ *Reba Williams*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Please accept my belated condolences! I only learned today (April 9,2013) that Miss Reba passed away. She and my mother were classmates at Asheville Normal, and I met Reba when I accompanied my mother to some their class reunions. After my mother passe*

Roberta - April 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *May treasured memories keep Ms. Williams close to all of us.*

Wynn Welch & Glenn Grande - January 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Taught me in 6th grade 1937.*

Fred Giles - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *WELL DONE, good and faithful servant. How many little children are better off today because of the life of Reba Williams? I remember her sweet and loving smile and always a kind, encouraging word. I will miss her.*

Rusty Lamb - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; love leaves a memory no one can steal.” --From a headstone in Ireland*

Louise Sweeten Kilgore - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ *Mrs. Williams was truly an inspiration to so many people. She will be missed.*

Fletcher and Penny Ervin - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *My prays are with the family. I will miss her. She was a very special person.*

Sue Callis - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Linnie Denton - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Reba Williams*

Julie Berney Galyon - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Sorry to hear the loss of Mrs. Williams. Glad to have known such a sweet lady. Always remember her smile. She was an inspiration to everyone. She will be missed by all.*

Randy Clevenger - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I will keep the family in my thoughts and prayers.

Libby Strange - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ A good long life well lived God will keep your family in his care.

jack clark - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ One of my all time favorite teachers. Sorry for your loss, gone but not forgotten.

Charles L. Seehorn Jr. - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ One of my very favorite teachers at NGS. Learned so much from her, she was what a teacher was to be, caring, loving and so understanding.

Pam Evans Stuart - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ We are out of state and do so mourn for the loss of Ms Reba. A family member and long loved friend, we will miss her so. Upon our return back to our home in Parrottsville, we plan to pay our respects more adequatley. Until then, our prayers and thoughts a

Donn\$Annette Berney - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Ms. Williams was one of those rare individuals that you were just glad you got to share a few moments with when you had the opportunity. The genuine smile on her face would always put a smile on ours. It will seem strange, at least for the immediate fut

Ashley and Barbara Morris - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Sorry to learn of the loss of Mrs. Williams. I am honored to be one of her former students. I for one know that she made a better person. She will be missed by all the she touched.

Chuck Strange - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ She was one of my favorite teachers. She always had a sweet smile.

Earl & Ila Ruth Edmonds - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Reba Williams

KATHY AND BUDDY BARNETT - December 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM