



Dr. Delores Ayers Keller

August 3, 1952 - January 6, 2010

Dr. Delores Ayers Keller Dr. Delores Ayers Keller was born on August 3, 1952 in Memphis, Tennessee, and passed away on January 3, 2010 at her residence in Huntsville, Texas, after an extended battle with cancer. In her Huntsville home, she leaves behind her beloved husband and best friend of thirty-two years, John M. Keller, their two Shelties, adopted from the Houston Sheltie Sanctuary, and one stray kitty, rescued in Orange, Texas. Delores worked for many years in the insurance industry before deciding, in her forties, to pursue her love of literature through higher education. She received a B.A. from Texas Tech University in 1996, a M.A. from Sam Houston State University in 1997, and a Ph.D. from Rice University in 2004. After receiving her doctorate, Dr. Keller and her husband moved to Orange Texas, where she taught English at Lamar State College-Orange until she became too ill to continue working. In March of 2009, Dr. Keller and her husband, John, returned to the Huntsville area to be close to their friends of many years. Delores is preceded in death by her father, Burk R. Ayers, of Memphis, Tennessee. She is survived by her husband, John M. Keller, of Huntsville; her mother, Dorothy V. Ayers, of Memphis; her sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Sam Brooks of Snow Lake Shores, Mississippi; her step daughter, step son-in-law, and step granddaughter, Jennifer, Derek, and Makenzie Bradford of Williston, Tennessee; and her step daughter and step granddaughter, Kristi Appleton and Kristiana Chenier, of Olive Branch, Mississippi; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Karen and Danny Ballard of Roland, Arkansas; Sharon

and Charlie Williams of Fort Smith, Arkansas; Donnie and Kathy Keller of Kernersville, North Carolina; Brenda Keller of Clarksville, Mississippi; Karen Keller of Owensboro, Kentucky; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Services will be held at 10:00 am Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, Texas. Interment will follow at Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 pm on Tuesday evening at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Rita B. Huff Humane Society Shelter, 418 Bearkat Blvd., Huntsville, TX 77340. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Delores Ayers Keller*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Gracie Webster lit a candle in memory of Dr. Delores Ayers Keller*



Gracie Webster - November 10, 2020 at 07:41 PM



“ *To the entire family, Ken and I send our love and sympathies for your loss. I have fond memories of early childhood days when all the cousins would be together on Sundays at Grandmother and Grandpa's house. God bless you through these difficult days.*

Sandra Ayers Kon - January 10, 2010 at 05:37 PM



“ *John, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this most difficult time.*

Glen Wilkerson - January 08, 2010 at 11:36 AM



“ *Another KHS angel has earned her wings. She is walking on streets of gold with Jesus' arms around her forever and ever.*

Richard McCoy - January 07, 2010 at 02:26 PM

MS

“ John, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Delores fought long and hard against a formidable foe but she is at peace with God. I pray that the pain of grief turns quickly into the fond and wonderful memories you had together. God bless you, John.
Marty

Marty Sullivan - January 06, 2010 at 05:59 PM

SV

“ Delores was a wonderful person, and loved her four legged children. Delores and Hank are now taking walks together and watching from heaven.

My prayers are with you at this time.

Stephenie Vallie - January 06, 2010 at 11:43 AM

LA

“ John, I was very sorry to hear of your loss. Hold on to those wonderful memories you have.

Lorie Arbour - January 06, 2010 at 11:22 AM

JM

“ To: John, Aunt Dorothy, and family.

I am so sorry for your loss. I admire Dolores' passion and interest in higher education and pursuing her dream of becoming a college professor. She achieved her lofty goal and enriched her life through this experience.

May God sustain you and bless you at this difficult time.

Jean and Janice Martz

Jean and Janice Martz - January 06, 2010 at 11:01 AM

J(

“ John, I regret that I did not have the opportunity to know Delores better. She was truly a rare person. My prayers are with you.

Joan Jolly (J.J.) - January 06, 2010 at 09:34 AM

MR

“ John,

You are more brave than you know, and I'm thinking of you. I'm sorry that I can't be there to say goodbye. Del was my rock at Rice and beyond, and I can't believe that she's really gone. I love you both. - Mandy

Mandy Reid - January 05, 2010 at 10:26 PM

KW

“ Dear family of Delores: She was in my homeroom for 6 years, and we became good friends. I always admired her intellect and sweet, sweet spirit. May God be with each of you at this time, and give you comfort in knowing that she is at peace and with our loving father.

Kay Cicalla Wilson

Kay Cicalla Wilson - January 05, 2010 at 09:49 PM

LC

“ To the family of Delores - Wow, I haven't seen Dleores in decades, but in her picture, I still see the Delores Ayers that I used to walk home from school with. We were in the 3rd grade then, and we were friends all the way through high school. It saddens me to hear of her long battle with cancer, and I can't imagine the loss for you, John. Know that many prayers will be spoken for the entire family to help you through this period of great loss. I remember her as always smiling, and know that she smiles still. May God's strength, peace, comfort, and joy fill your hearts and sustain you. In Him, Lani

Lani Lipsey Carey - January 05, 2010 at 06:44 PM

DF

“ Dear family of Delores Ayers,

I have not spoken with Delores in three decades but I knew her well in junior and senior high school and am proud to say that we were quite good friends I am also a bit surprised to say that her quality of goodness has remained in my heart for these many years.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire family. May thousands of angels sing her to her rest.

respectfully,

David Troy Francis

david francis - January 05, 2010 at 05:48 PM

TM

“ John, So sorry to have heard the news on the loss of your wife Delores. I know you have sweet memories which will last a lifetime. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this tough time. God bless

Tim Murphy - January 05, 2010 at 04:15 PM

RM

“ John,

I extend my prayers for you during this difficult time. May God's comfort keep you.

*Deepest Condolences,
Ray Maynard II*

Ray Maynard - January 05, 2010 at 02:39 PM

DA

“ John,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through this time of loss. If there is anything that we can do to help please let us know.

Dave and Linda Aldrich

Dave Aldrich - January 05, 2010 at 02:21 PM

SM

“ John - Even though you and Delores knew this day would come it is still such a loss for you and your family. I know that Delores was the love of your life as you had shown many times in your support of her academic career as well as both of you pulling up roots in Huntsville and moving to Orange so that she could realize her dream of being a college professor. Even though I know these are dark days for you there will be brighter days ahead when you can reflect on the special relationship that you and Delores had.

*Thinking of you - your friend
Sam Morgan*

Sam Morgan - January 05, 2010 at 01:29 PM

WM

“ John,
Delores fought a long and valiant battle with the cancer. I can't imagine your loss and how much you will miss her. I also know that as long as you live, you will treasure the time that you had with her. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if there is anything that I can do to help you during this most difficult time.

May God bless you and your family with strength and peace.

Wendell Moss

Wendell Moss - January 05, 2010 at 01:00 PM

TR

“ *Dear John and Dorothy,*
It was such an honor to care for Delores during her last few weeks. Just thinking of her makes me smile, as I recall her independence and courage. She knew what she wanted and was so appreciative of anything done for her. You both did such an outstanding job of lovingly caring for her. John - you are an amazing man. May you find peace in knowing - you did everything Delores wanted, just like she wanted it.

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time - may the peace only Jesus can give, be yours.

Sincerely - Tami

Tami Dees, RN - January 05, 2010 at 11:35 AM

RH

“ *John, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this. I cannot express how sorry I am to hear of your loss. Ryan*

Ryan Hubbard - January 05, 2010 at 11:21 AM

AC

“ Dear Sweet Aunt Dot, John, Debbie and family,
I am so sorry about the loss of your Delores. I know she fought a long hard battle. We are praying for His peace and comfort to hold you during this time. With love and prayers,
Angie Ayers Cummings

Angie Ayers Cummings - January 05, 2010 at 11:15 AM

JA

“ John, Aunt Dorothy and family, It is John Carol and Flo Ayers in Dallas.
We are saddened to learn of your loss.
May you receive strength from the Lord during this hour of sorry.

John C Ayers - January 05, 2010 at 10:13 AM

KK

“ John, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I know that you have lost your soul mate. Few of us ever have the blessing of having known such love and friendship and you and Delores shared.

Due to bad weather coming our way, I am afraid to make the trip to Huntsville. I have temporary custody of Rick's twins and therefore, I have to consider the possibility of not being able to get home quickly for them.

You will be in my prayers. Love Karen

Karen E Keller - January 04, 2010 at 06:32 PM

JH

“ *Delores was such a wonderful, incredible person. I am so sorry to hear about her passing. She was a generous, intelligent scholar and I will always remember her with the greatest affection. We shared a lot of good times at Rice; I couldn't have completed my prospectus without her help!*

My deepest sympathies and prayers go out to all the people who loved Delores so much. She will be very missed.

Jaya Hariprasad - January 04, 2010 at 05:42 PM

MN

“ *Delores was such a delight during our time at Rice together. She could always make me laugh, and her infectious smile will be sorely missed. My prayers are with her family during this difficult time.*

Mary Stripling Nelson - January 04, 2010 at 03:33 PM