



Lane Stone Murray

January 1, 1753 - August 7, 2009

Dr. Lane Murray Nov. 6, 1921 – Aug. 3, 2009 Lane Murray was born Joyce Elaine Stone in Celina, Collin County, TX, on Nov. 6, 1921. She grew up on a cotton farm in a small west Texas town as the only daughter and youngest child of E.J. and Elise Stone, with one older brother Jack. The three of them have preceded her in death. At age 15 she graduated from Sudan High School, Sudan, TX, and attended Texas Tech University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in English and education in 1942. In 1952 she received her Master of Education degree from Sam Houston State University. In 1962 she received her Doctor of Education with a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston. She was appointed to the faculty of Texas A&M University in 1960-69, distinguishing herself as the first woman to hold a full-time faculty position in A&M's College of Education. In 1969 Dr. Murray became the pioneer of the school district concept within a state prison system when she was named by Dr. George Beto to be founding superintendent for Windham School System, Texas Department of Corrections. With no model to follow, Dr. Murray recognized the need for an innovative, nontraditional approach to education of the incarcerated adult felon. She identified and implemented a non-graded, competency-based approach to instruction in a prison setting. The Windham School System model of instruction was a non-graded system where mastery learning was the goal. With her direction, curriculum bulletins were written for all the basic instructional disciplines, and assessment measures were

standardized district-wide. All 50 campuses were accredited by the Texas Education Agency and the Association of Colleges and Schools at the time of her retirement in 1994. Every one of the 254 counties in Texas sent students to her schools. Among her accomplishments, she served two terms as national president of the Correctional Education Association. With Dr. Murray's leadership, CEA developed from a loosely knit group to a collective voice powerful enough to influence national legislation. She also held a life membership of the American Correctional Association and was a recipient of the prestigious E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award. She also received the Blue Ribbon from the American Film Festival, New York City, for the film "Lions, Parakeets, and Other Prisoners," a docudrama depicting Windham's inmate student creative writing project. In 1989, Dr. Murray was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Later in 1995, when then Texas Governor George W. Bush gave the keynote at the prison dedication of Lane Murray Unit, named in her honor, he opined, "I knew how important Dr. Lane was when I discovered that she had been inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame before my momma." Dr. Murray was married to the late Thomas F. Murray, SHSU professor of education. She is survived by her children, Stone and wife Betty Murray, Joyce Murray Boatright, Mark and wife Michelle Murray; her grandchildren, Drew and wife Katy Murray, Rich and wife Claudia Murray, Matthew and wife Sharon Anderson, Megan Lane and husband Ron Fielden, Tracie and husband Doug Mauldin, Keelan Murray, and Kolby Yarnell. She is also survived by eight treasured great-grandchildren, and a host of beloved friends, including Carlene Reinhart, Carolyn Baxter, Alice Fisher, Vanessa Thueson, Laura Floyd, Chris and Pat Tracey, Jim and Barbara Riley, Tom C. Cole, Jr., Trenda Coburn, Gene Ennis, and Fr. Steven Paine, to name a few. She also is survived by a brother-in-law Joe and wife Judy Murray, and two sisters-in-law, Kay Murray Tarski and Jean Murray Parker, along with 14 nieces and nephews. A rosary will be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church on Thursday at 7 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at the church on Friday at 4 p.m. A reception will be held at the family home, 1422 Avenue O, following Friday's

service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to Casa Juan Diego, P.O. Box 70113, Houston, TX, 77270, or to the charity of your choice. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Lane Stone Murray*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Joyce, Stone, and Mark: May the fond memories of your precious mother bring comfort to you and your families now and in all the future days. My parents and only sibling, Nita Sue, have all passed. I have depended on God for my strength, peace, and comfort. I give Him all my worries and He takes good care of me. I truly empathize with all of you. Joyce, it was so special to see you at our reunion. Love, Carole Ann*

Carole Ann Hughes - August 11, 2009 at 01:53 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Bob enjoyed working with Dr. Murray when he worked for Windham teaching horticulture.*

Bob, Mellicent, Bobby II, Heather, Heath & Justin Wiley - August 11, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ *Dr. Murray was my education professor at Texas A&M University. I graduated in January, 1968. I was in a class of seven students and four professors. It may have been the first education class to graduate from Texa A&M. She was a wonderful teacher and a caring person. I followed her career over the years. She contributed so much to education in our state. I am so sorry for your loss. Pat Rice*

Pat Rice - August 09, 2009 at 03:20 PM

LC

“ To The Murray Family,
When I think of Dr. Lane Murray, I think of particular scripture that describe her. "Who can find a more virtuous woman...For her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31: 10 (KJV)
Dr. Murray was so amazing; priceless; lacking nothing of value.
Thank you for sharing her with us, for she touched the lives of many...
personally and professionally.
You are in our prayers.

Lawrence and Dessie Cherry - August 07, 2009 at 02:17 PM

LE

“ Dear Stone, Joyce, and Mark,
I didn't know your mom very well---I was somewhat intimidated by her very attractive, very confident demeanor. But I do know it is difficult to lose your mom and the "last parent".
You become the senior generation. You are always their kids though, and the good memories will sustain you. And you're lucky to have each other.

Linda Ryan Evans - August 07, 2009 at 11:22 AM

WS

“ To the Murray family I send my sincerest condolences. I had the pleasure of working closely with Lane for many years. I got to see first hand how her brilliant innovations in the field of criminal justice education programming positively touched thousands of offenders. I have no doubt that her legacy, the Windham School District, will continue to perform exceptionally well in carrying out her vision.

Wayne Scott - August 07, 2009 at 08:11 AM

SN

“Joyce, Mark & family, So very sorry and sad to learn of your mother's passing. Wishing you all comfort and best memories.

Sheryl Sullivan Nelson - August 06, 2009 at 11:59 PM

MB

“Mark, Joyce, & Stone - Lane was so many things to so many of us. I worked for her at Windham, was her student in grad school, shared a room with her in Cairo (while we visited the prisons, courts, and great pyramids of Egypt), and we remained good friends for years afterward. Last time I got to see her was at Mark & Michelle's home. We always called each other on our birthdays & New Year's. She & Thom were such good friends. Many good memories. Lane was a magnificent woman, and she was truly a blessing in my life. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary Foley Bieseemeier - August 06, 2009 at 11:24 PM

JB

“I met Dr. Murray MANY years ago when I interviewed for a position. She was such a sweet lady and achieved so much for Windham education. I know that she will be missed by the many who knew her and also by those that she's helped through the years. She sincerely cared about helping others.
Jamie Brinegar

Jamie Brinegar - August 06, 2009 at 07:57 PM

CS

“ Joyce,
You are in my thoughts and prayers. After reading your mother's background, I now see where your intelligence and amazing educational passion comes from. She was brilliant and groundbreaking in the world of helping people change their lives.

Warmly,

C.C.

C. C. Sutphen - August 06, 2009 at 05:14 PM

JM

“ Stone,
I remember your Mother well and I am sure you will miss her. I am sorry for your loss.
Jimmy McClendon

jimmy mcclendon - August 06, 2009 at 02:07 PM

BT

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to all the family. She was an outstanding lady and I enjoyed working with her over the years.*

Bruce Thaler, Retired TDCJ - August 06, 2009 at 01:24 PM

BR

“ Stone,
I met your mother when you lived around the corner on 15th Street. As a twelve-year-old I liked her immediately. She took care of us and was strict. I remember you working on a big film strip project for her when you lived in the big brick house on 11th Street. She was fair and paid you for your time. She was my English teacher in tenth or eleventh grade. She mixed a fair amount of journalism into the curriculum. She was always helpful and supportive in spite of my meager gifts in composition. We were all blessed by her presence-- now there are many of us. Thank you "Lane."

Britt - August 06, 2009 at 12:19 PM

MP

“ Joyce, *I'm sorry to hear about your mother. May God bless you and your family in your time of sorrow. Benito sends his condolences too.*

Mary Perez - August 06, 2009 at 12:11 PM

FV

“ Stone, *I am so sorry to hear about your mother. I remember her from the mid fifties until I moved from Huntsville. She was always so sweet and welcomed me when I'd come over to play.*
Floyd

Floyd Vice - August 06, 2009 at 11:44 AM

CN

“ My deepest sympathy on the loss of your Mother. *I have many great memories of my visits with her and your Father, especially the many hours we spent playng tennis years ago (They were quite a pair!). She was a great lady and educator who influenced many lives.*

Cheryl Northam - August 06, 2009 at 09:54 AM

NJ

“*Sorry for the loss of your Mother. She has contributed so much to education and the world. Norma Dell Jones, Former SHSU Alumni Director (1977-1992).*

Norma Dell Jones - August 05, 2009 at 05:22 PM

MC

“*Mark, Joyce, Stone-I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mom-- what a great lady she was. My thoughts and prayers are with you*

Mary Beth Kaltwasser Cook - August 05, 2009 at 10:45 AM

JL

“*We are so sorry for your loss of this amazing woman. Dr. Murray was a role model and mentor for so many women, she showed all of us what it took to be a great leader. She was extremely innovative in her approach to education for offenders, and so charismatic that she convinced everyone, including sceptical Wardens and Legislators that she could and would be successful in educating offenders. It was a privilege to have worked for her. I will always cherish my memories of her.*

Joe and Cheryl Lawson - August 05, 2009 at 10:16 AM

LC

“*Joyce and family,
I am saddened by your loss. Your mother was always such a sweet lady. You remain in our thoughts and prayers.*

Linda Sullivan Clinton - August 05, 2009 at 08:28 AM

BN

“ So sorry to read about Dr. Murray. She was very special to the HHS class of 1958. I am so glad I was able to visit with her on the phone prior to our reunion in October. She was an exceptional person and always so pretty. I truly enjoyed knowing her.

God Bless your family in your time of sorrow.

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - August 04, 2009 at 05:42 PM

GG

“ Dear Family, We have such fond memories of Lane and Tom. I was lucky to be hired in Windham's early days when Dr. Murray took a chance on a young choir director as being an important part of the district's fine arts program. We will treasure those and many other fond memories.

Greg and Dani Gathright - August 04, 2009 at 02:38 PM