



## Dr. Marilyn McAdams Sibley

September 30, 1921 - January 21, 2006

Dr. Marilyn McAdams Sibley Beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Dr. Marilyn McAdams Sibley, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, noted historian and author, passed from this life on January 19, 2006, after a short illness. Dr. Sibley was born September 30, 1921, in rural Walker County to Nevada and Horace McAdams. She married J. Dale Sibley on June 24, 1944 at First Baptist Church of Huntsville. Dr. Sibley received a Bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University, a Masters degree from the University of Houston, and a Ph.D from Rice University. Dr. Sibley served as Professor and Chairman of the History Department at Houston Baptist University, a visiting professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin and an instructor at the University of Houston. She authored eight books including *Travelers In Texas* (1967) and *Lone Stars and State Gazettes* (1983). She served as president of the Texas State Historical Association and authored numerous articles including articles in the *Journal of Southern History* and *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. Among the awards Dr. Sibley received are the Piper Award for excellence in teaching in 1976 and the Summerfield G. Roberts Award from the Sons of the Republic of Texas for the best book about Texas published in 1967. Dr. Sibley was a member of First Baptist Church of Huntsville where she attended the Golden Rule Sunday School Class. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She is survived by her husband of 61 years and the love of her life, J. Dale Sibley, a sister,

Ruth McAdams Ralston of Longview, three sons, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a sister, Dorothy McAdams Sparks, brother-in-law Ray Sparks, and brother-in-law Bob Ralston. Her sons are: Dr. David McAdams Sibley and wife, Pam of Waco, Dr. Stuart Dale Sibley and wife, Debra, of Dallas, and Dr. Mark McAdams Sibley and wife, Miriam, of Richardson. There are eight grandchildren: Rachel Sibley Reid of Keller, Texas, David McAdams Sibley, Jr. of Waco, Texas, Jonathan Sibley of Waco, Brooke Allison Sibley of Dallas, Patrick Sibley of Richardson, Austin Sibley of Richardson, Lee Sibley of Richardson, and Meredith Sibley of Richardson. There are two great-grandchildren: David Coleman Reid and Maryn Elizabeth Reid of Keller, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, January 21, 2006 at McAdams Chapel, under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home with Rev. David Valentine officiating. Interment will follow at McAdams Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00-8:00 pm Friday in the Chapel of the First Baptist Church, 1229 Ave J at the 13th Street entrance, Huntsville. Memorial contributions may be made to McAdams Cemetery Association, c/o Donnie Moore, 4291 Pee Dee Ln., Madisonville, TX 77864 or First Baptist Church, 1229 Ave. J, Huntsville, TX 77340. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Marilyn McAdams Sibley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Mrs. Sibley was truly a wonderful lady. We admired her grace and kindness to all---and her passion for Texas history. She was an inspiration to us. May God bless and comfort you at this very difficult time. Most sincerely,  
Mac and Leanne Woodward*

**Mac and Leanne Woodward** - February 04, 2006 at 12:35 PM



“ *Please accept our family's condolences at the loss of Mrs.Sibley. What a wonderful and tallented Christian woman. After experiencing such a loss ourselves we understand the depth of your grief. Our hearts go out to you. If there is anything that will ease the pain of your loss it is the absolute belief that she will be reunited with you for eternity. Please call on us if we can help in any way.  
The Michael Park Family*

**Michael Park** - January 28, 2006 at 08:10 AM



“ *I was very privileged to take both Texas and Civil War history from Dr. Sibley at Houston Baptist University. My knowledge and love of history are a result of having her for a professor. Please accept my condolences for the loss of a great lady.*

**Margaret Weiskopf** - January 26, 2006 at 04:31 PM

JB

“ Dear Mark. My father called and told me of your loss. I have fond memories of your mother such as going to see *An Evening with Mark Twain*. I spoke with Paul a few minutes ago and he has similar thoughts. Hope you're doing well. John

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**John Beeler** - January 25, 2006 at 12:17 PM

AE

“ Marilyn is and was a delightful person to know. Each Sunday morning, I came in and sat with her during Sunday school class. She was always cheerful, gracious, very interested in my stories, my activities. I knew that she was an accomplished author, but did not know of the extent of her work. She did not ever exude or comment on any specialties she had completed or awards she had been given. She seemed to be interested in today, now, what is going on in your life.

*I am so pleased to have known her even for a few short years. I have the feeling that she was the same every day regardless as to how long she has known you. I noticed in the newspaper writeup that her sons were very well educated. I can just imagine how well she taught her boys, and how much she enjoyed doing that. I will miss her so much, but I am so proud to have been in her life even for a short period of time.*

*Adell Emanis*

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**Adell Emanis** - January 24, 2006 at 01:33 PM

JR

“ Dear Family of Dr. Sibley,

*Our heartfelt sympathy goes to each of you. May the passage of time ease your aching hearts, and your faith, along with your cherished memories of her, sustain you.*

*Jim and Brenda Rudd*

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**Jim and Brenda Rudd** - January 23, 2006 at 03:53 PM



“ Dr. Marilyn McAdams Sibley

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January 23, 2006 at 12:54 PM

MG

“ Dear Family of Dr. Sibley,  
*My prayers and profound condolences. I was fortunate to take one of her graduate seminars at U.T. Austin in the 1970s. She was a marvelous teacher and a fine scholar.*

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**Michael L. Gillette** - January 23, 2006 at 12:34 PM

BC

“ Dale, Sorry to find out about the loss of your wife Marilyn. I did not find out in time to make the memorial service. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Call me on my cell phone it will not be long distance. Cell # 832-656-5447. Your old friend, Bill.

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**Bill Crabb** - January 23, 2006 at 11:14 AM

DF

“ We were sorry to read about Marylyn's pasiong away. Sorry we didn't know in tme for the memorial service. She was a lovely, gifted friend and will be missed. Would love to see you.

Fondly: Bill and Dorothy Klotz  
bklotz@sbcglobal.net

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**Dear Dale & Family** - January 23, 2006 at 09:56 AM

AE

“ I truly loved, adored, and respected Dr. Sibley. She taught the 1st history course I took at HBU. That convinced me to choose history as my second major, math being my first. I took every course that she taught at HBU. I especially enjoyed Texas History and Modern European History. I wrote my senior thesis on Otto von Bismark. I loved the research and Dr. Sibley gave me great advice and suggestions. A close friend of mine, Barbara Rathgeber, also graduated from HBU with a history degree. We met while teaching at the same high school and have spent many hours talking about Dr. Sibley and "comparing notes." Barbara is also "crazy" about her. I will never forget Marilyn Sibley and cherish the time I spent in her classes. Please accept my sincere condolences on your profound loss. She has been a great and lasting influence on many, many lives.

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**Alyce Len Edwards** - January 22, 2006 at 12:28 AM

MT

“ Dear David & Pam,

You are in our thoughts and prayers. Your Mother was beautiful in every way and was extremely proud of you.

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**M.A. & Virgiia Taylor** - January 20, 2006 at 09:55 PM

MA

“ Dear Sibley Family: I served on the Board of the Mary Martin Elmore Scott Chapter of the DAR with Marilyn and came to know her as a very charming, pleasant person, committed to her position as Recording Secretary, and a real asset to our organization. Her passing will be a great loss to our Chapter.

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**Marilyn Adams** - January 20, 2006 at 08:26 PM

CT

“ Dear Sibley Family,

Carolyn and I share in your sorrow and loss at this time. We pledge to keep you in our thoughts and prayers during this time of grief.

David,

We're thinking about you during these difficult days.

Bill

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**Carolyn & Bill Thornton** - January 20, 2006 at 07:16 PM

DL

“ Dear Dale and family,

The HBU family is saddened to learn of Marilyn's death. She remained among our most prized colleagues and, for those of us who knew her, among our most distinguished friends. Many of our faculty and staff remember her years of service here as Chair of the Department of History and Political Science and her extraordinary career as a historian and writer on Texas history. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your family at this time of your great loss.

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**Don Looser** - January 20, 2006 at 04:23 PM

JB

“ It has been quite a few years since I have seen Dale and Marilyn. They were my good friends at Park Place Baptist Church. I remember Marilyn as being gracious, calm, and "always a lady". As I recall, Dale and Marilyn were leaders in our Sunday School Department. The year was probably around 1965. Wonderful people.

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**Joel Barnard** - January 20, 2006 at 04:20 PM

JL

“ Dear Stuart,  
My mother called me this afternoon about your mother's passing. I'm praying for you all. You truly have a rich heritage. Your friendship and the many hours spent with your family are some of the best times of my childhood. James

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**James D. Long** - January 20, 2006 at 04:05 PM

DM

“ Dear David:  
I was in Houston today when I received word of your mother's passing. Although I did not know her, I know you are certainly a product of her great love and integrity. I understand your sorrow from my own mother's passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Drayton

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**Drayton McLane** - January 20, 2006 at 02:51 PM

MS

“ Dear David Sibley & Family,  
My prayers and condolences to you and your family in this time of sadness. From reading about your mother it's clear she was an outstanding Texan of incredible accomplishments. Your families success and service to Texas is the direct result of how truly special your mother was. She was a pioneer and a person that all Texans should be proud of. As a board member of the Sam Houston Alumni Association, and as a staff member from Senator Ken Armbrister's office, I wanted to send my condolences and prayers to you and your family. I also wanted to thank you for your mother's contribution to Texas, and for your families spirit of public service and excellence. Your mother, and your family are the best of Texas, and have helped make Texas the great state that it is today. God Bless you and the entire Sibley family.  
Sincerely,  
Mike Sizemore  
Victoria, Texas

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**Mike Sizemore** - January 20, 2006 at 12:18 PM

JP

“ Dear David,  
  
I am very sorry to hear about your loss. Having also gone through losing a parent recently I know what a tremendously hard experience this can be, however over time you'll find the strength and will always remember the good times and many fond memories. I have been amazed at how strong and resilient my mom has been over the last year since my father died and I attribute it to her faith in God. I'm sure God will do the same for you and your family and I'll keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

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**John Powers** - January 20, 2006 at 11:56 AM

NJ

“ Dear Sibley Family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Your mother was a delight to know. Norma Dell Jones former SHSU Alumni Director.

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**Norma Dell Jones** - January 20, 2006 at 09:56 AM

TD

“ Dear David and Pam,

*I am so sorry to learn of your mother's death. I was told that it was sudden and unexpected. This makes the grief deeper and more difficult. Please know that Don and I are thinking about you. We will keep you in our prayers in the days, weeks and months ahead.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tommye Lou*

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**Tommye Lou Davis** - January 20, 2006 at 09:52 AM

WD

“ Dear David:

*Please accept Ann's and my sincerest condolences on Marilyn's death. It never matters when, or under what circumstances, the loss occurs, there just is no way to cushion the loss of one's mother. I know this is a difficult period for you with a mix of fond memories and deep grief, but I'm sure you will find comfort in the company of family, friends and the special memories Marilyn has left you. Celebrate the joy and love of her life in order to ease the pain of your loss.*

*I was very blessed and pleased when we discovered that she and my mother were cousins, and I had the opportunity to correspond with her about our family ties. What a great lady she was.*

*Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers, and that if I can do anything for you, please let me know.*

*Will Davis*

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**Will D. Davis** - January 20, 2006 at 08:50 AM