



Dr. Mary Ella Montague

January 28, 1924 - January 30, 2006

Dr. Mary Ella Montague Mary Ella Montague was born January 28, 1924 in Washington, GA the only daughter of Frank and Sadie (Wootton) Montague and she passed away January 30, 2006. Her family included three brothers, Frank Orum Montague, Jr., William Sanford Montague and John Wootton Montague. Dr. Montague was educated in the public schools of Bay City, Texas, graduating from high school in 1940. She entered Texas Women's University that year, graduating with two degrees, Master's and Bachelor's 1944 and 1946. Dr. Montague earned a Doctorate in education from New York University in 1962. Dr. Montague spent her entire career in the field of Modern Dance at Sam Houston State University, beginning in 1945 and ending with her retirement in 1984, a total of 39 years. Positions she held in those years include Chairperson of the Department of Physical Education for Women, 1967 – 1978, Chairperson of the Department of Dance, 1979, and at the time of her retirement, was Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Montague was named at her retirement professor emeritus in dance by the university. Other honors and achievements: dance editor for the JOURNAL OF HEALTH PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION; president of the TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION; responsible for the choreography for ten concerts and seven musicals; author of many articles written for professional journals in the field of modern dance. In her retirement years, Dr. Montague gave leadership to the Huntsville LITTLE THEATER, literacy program for children, and the Women's

Golf Association at Elkins Lake, where she made her home. She served as an elder, First Christian Church in Huntsville. Dr. Montague is survived by two brothers, Rev. William S. Montague, Rowlett, TX, and John W. Montague, San Antonio, TX; three nephews and one niece, 8 great nephews and 3 great-nieces, her precious dog, Kate, her many friends throughout the community especially her exercise class that she led for twenty years after her retirement from Sam Houston State University. Her many friends include her church friends, her golfing buddies, the community theater, the university and other groups that she was a part of. She meant so much to so many people. Memorial services will be held Thursday February 2, 2006 at 10 AM at the First Christian Church of Huntsville under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Montague Dance Scholarship at Sam Houston State University. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Mary Ella Montague*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I just discovered that Dr. Montague passed away in 2006. I was one of her students in several classes. What a lady she was! I never recall hearing her raise her voice. I can still see that twinkle in her eye when she knew you were not prepared for class. She had a classy way of letting you know it without embarrassing you in front of the others. Those were happy days and Dr. Montague was a definite part of them. This ol' Physical Education teacher wound up being a clergy after retiring from teaching. Rest in peace. Rev. Bev Stephenson, Class of 1964*

Bev Stephenson - June 11, 2013 at 03:57 PM

MC

“ My husband and I retired to Elkins Lake in 1988 and as I was reading the E.L.Directory there to my surprise was Montague, Dr. Mary Ella. I immediately telephoned her and introduced myself. She was most gracious, wondered if we were related as did I. Later, I quite often saw her on the golf course and eventually had the pleasure of being on her team a few times. She always greeted me anywhere around Elkins with a cheerful "Hello,Cuz!" I will certainly miss her and that greeting.

I was born in Hattiesburg, MS. My grandfather was Phillip Ernest Montague, Sr. My father was James Robert Montague, his brothers were: William Edward Montague, John Montague and Phillip Ernest Montague II. My brother still lives on acreage inherited from our grandfather and he is Robert Hamilton Montague. He has two sons.

My husband, Robert Crout and I send our deepest sympathy at the passing of a kind and cheerful lady.

*Sincerely,
Barbara M. Crout
936-291-0107*

Mrs. Barbara Montague Crout - February 07, 2006 at 09:52 PM

MH

“ I came to know Ms. Monty only a few years ago when she came to us with renal failure, requiring dialysis. In the short time I knew her, her genuine love for all people was more than apparent. She was one of our greatest A+ patients, and an inspiration to many of our other patients. She was always smiling, always caring, and a real gem of a person. I feel that all people that met her were better for having done so. I know that I am. May she dance forever with The Lord.

Melissa Erwin Hicks - February 05, 2006 at 09:50 AM

LW

“ Dr. Montague taught me at Sam Houston State University, and I will never forget her. She was so talented, so graceful, a real inspiration. She was always positive and encouraging about your efforts in class and on stage. God bless her.
Leanne Grivich Woodward, SHSU '74

Leanne and Mac Woodward - February 04, 2006 at 12:25 PM

JM

“ WE JUST WANTED TO OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES AT THIS TIME. WE HOPE THE FAMILY IS FINDING PEACE AT THIS TIME AND HOPE THE FAMILY IS DOING WELL.MAY OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS BE WITH YOU.

JENNIFER AND FRANK MONTAGUE - February 02, 2006 at 09:49 AM

DG

“ I first met this great lady 35 years ago when I was a student. She was a comfort to this lonely little homesick freshman. I wish I could have seen her just one more time. Her kind heart has touched many who will never forget her.
Diane Grayson Goloby, SHSU '79

Diane Grayson Goloby - February 01, 2006 at 11:39 PM

MM

“ She was my friend as much as my Aunt. She always had a restful, peaceful home for me to run to in times of need or stress. I'll miss our quiet times together, all the things we talked about and all the things we didn't even have to say or agree on. She's with her Mom, Dad & brother in heaven now and dancing to her hearts desire again. I know Pepper, Tiger & The Divine Miss EM are with her as well - her 3 loving dogs that went before her. Vaya con Dios my Most Favorite.

Mark Montague - February 01, 2006 at 10:38 PM

KM

“ *A very understanding and nice lady. I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm glad she is whole again in God's loving arms.
Take care and God Bless,
Kimberly(a friend of Mark Montague's)*

Kimberly Matney - February 01, 2006 at 12:57 PM

NJ

“ *What a joy it was to know this fine lady. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. I appreciate her kindness and help to me during the years that I was the SHSU Alumni Director. Rest in peace. Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady, Texas.*

Norma Dell Jones - February 01, 2006 at 08:58 AM