



Dr. Mary Frances Park

May 2, 1916 - January 11, 2006

Obituary Mary F. Park Dr. Mary Francis Park, daughter of Charles H. Allen and Elizabeth Allen from Huntsville, Texas, was born May 2, 1916 and passed away January 9, 2006 from cancer. Dr. Park was born and raised in Huntsville where she nurtured her family and served her community as both a dedicated teacher and a tireless volunteer to many people and causes. Dr. Park graduated from Huntsville Demonstration School in 1933 and continued her education at Sam Houston State College, receiving both her Bachelor's and her Master's degrees. Years later she earned her Doctorate in Education from the University of Houston. After teaching elementary school between degrees for eleven years, she settled on a 25-year career as a professor of education at Sam Houston State University where she was chosen as the University's outstanding professor in 1981. She was the first woman to be chairperson of a university athletic conference when she chaired the Lone Star Conference while at Sam Houston. Upon Dr. Park's retirement from teaching in 1982, she was awarded the Minnie Stevens Piper Teaching Award, which she used to establish a youth scholarship endowment at Sam Houston State University and the Mance Park Athletic Scholarship at Huntsville High School. After retiring from the teaching field, Dr. Park immersed herself in service to her community, contributing her talents and commitment to many boards, organizations, projects, and people. Recently her affiliations included: Huntsville Education Board, Huntsville Rotary Club, and Huntsville Library and Cemetery Boards to mention just a few. She was a member of numerous

organizations such as Delta Kappa Gamma, Phi Delta Kappa, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonies, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Colonial Dames, and the Historical Lineage Society. Dr. Park received many awards for her public service. She was Mother of the Year for the state of Texas in 1982 and honored with the award as a Distinguished Alumni from Sam Houston University in 1994. The Huntsville Chamber of Commerce honored Dr. Park by bestowing on her the Mance Park Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. She was awarded the Community Builder Award in recognition of distinguished service and personal contributions in 2005. Mary Francis Park will be remembered for her commitment to her family, church, profession, and community. Services for Dr. Park will be held Wednesday at 2:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville with Dr. Bruce Hay officiating, under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Internment will follow in the Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery. She will lie in state 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Tuesday. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Dr. Park is survived by her son, Mance Michael Park, and his wife, Carol, and their sons, Mance Allen and Paul Michael Park. She is also survived by her brother, Charles H. Allen, Jr., his wife, Eloise, and their two daughters, Beth Willis and Genie Cook. Other surviving family members include first cousin Col. A. S. Kelly and his daughters, Karen Kelly and Sandy Mills, and the many cousins who joined Dr. Park in the Frasier's-Forever Family Reunions. In lieu of flowers, friends are asked to contribute to the First United Methodist Church or the Mary Frances and Mance Park Endowment at Sam Houston State University. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Mary Frances Park*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Mike & Family,*

*I was living in Miami working the Hurricane Wilma when your mom passed away and I am so sorry I was not hear to say goodbye. She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed.
God Bless, Pam*

Pam Colley - October 16, 2007 at 06:14 PM



“ *Huntsville will miss a grand lady. Her service was lovely and she would have been proud. The articles in the papers were wonderful. I sent a nomination to the Item immediately nominating Mary Frances posthumously for the Citizen of the Year Award. That is one award she had missed and should have had it years ago. Love, Lillian Lanier*

Lillian Lanier - January 16, 2006 at 12:04 PM



“ *Carol, I have thought about you and the family many times when I have gone through Huntsville. I retired from Woodland Hills a year ago. I would love to hear from you. I am so sorry for your loss, she was a great lady. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Love, Susan Buckstaff*

Susan Cummings Buckstaff - January 12, 2006 at 06:03 PM

CN

“ Mike and Carol -- what a privilege to have had dear Mary Frances for our friend. And what a loss for your family and the whole community. We loved her dearly and are with you in spirit as you honor her today with a memorial service. Love to all -- Cecil and Olive Ruth Nabors

Cecil and Olive Ruth Nabors - January 11, 2006 at 10:55 AM

DT

“ Our community has truly lost a wonderful, gracious, and true "Southern lady". Our family has treasured our friendship with Mary Frances and Mance and their family since we moved to Huntsville in 1964. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time and will continue to be in the future. I loved working with Mary Frances in the schools and in the community- also, with Mance while he was superintendent. They were great caring friends. Take care. Dorothea, James, Ruth and Rachel (Tarver) Tucker

Dorothea Tarver - January 11, 2006 at 12:38 AM

GG

“ What an inspiration to our family and the community! Mary Frances will be fondly remembered as a real treasure. May God bless her family as they mourn her passing.

Greg and Dani Gathright - January 10, 2006 at 10:40 PM

KH

“ My Mom, Joanne Cusack, has been a long time friend of Mary Frances. I know she was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Kim Hecke - January 10, 2006 at 07:32 PM

TM

“ We were all very sorry to hear of the passing of Mary Frances. She was such a wonderful and incredible person who did so many wonderful things in her life. We were so honored to have both she and Mance in our life for the short time that it was even though our paths have crossed in the past as she was a good friend of Tom's grandmother Mrs. T.P. Mitchell. We even more deeply regret we will be unable to attend the funeral, but our thoughts, hearts and prayers are with Mike and his family. The memories and legacy of Mary Frances will live on for many, many years to come. Tom, Dorothy and Mark Mitchell. Houston, Tx.

Tom, Dorothy and Mark Mitchell - January 10, 2006 at 06:41 PM

SH

“ Mary Frances Park is definitely one of God's angels. She will be missed by this community every day. She gave so much and never asked for anything in return. Mrs. Park would always greet you with a smile and was a great source of encouragement during tough times. My prayers are with the family during this tough time.

Sharese Hurst - January 10, 2006 at 11:11 AM

SD

“ Everyone knows that Mary Frances Park was an outstanding mother, universtiy professor, and community leader. To me, she was Michael's mother and one of the best teachers I have ever had (second grade). The Parks were our neighbors one block away and I had the opportunity to interact with the entire family--Mary Frances, Mance, and Michael. She was a very special, engergetic, intelligent, and caring woman who touched many lives. When a "great person" dies, we grieve. However, we can rejoice that we in Huntsville were blessed with the long life of this wonderful lady. She always reminded me that we shared the same birthday (May 2). There will always be a special place in my heart and memories for "Mrs. Park" and her family.

Shad Dabaghi - January 09, 2006 at 10:52 PM



“ *Dr. Mary Frances Park*

January 09, 2006 at 10:33 PM

NJ

“ *How blessed this writer has been to know you, Mary Frances, and also to know Mance. Thank you for helping so many people in the education field and also for your gracious help while I was the Alumni Director at SHSU. May your family always know how many lives you and Mance touched. Our prayers are with all of you. Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones of Lovelady.*

Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones - January 09, 2006 at 07:07 PM