



Betty Jean McLain

June 21, 1931 - June 25, 2017

Funeral Services for Betty Jean McLain, 86, of Rusk, Texas will be 3pm, Thursday, July 6, 2017 at Restland Abbey Chapel in Dallas, Texas. Ms McLain passed away June 25, 2017. Burial will follow at Restland Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the SPCA or to the charity of your choice in her name.

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Jean McLain*

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *I have thought of " Ms McClain so many times over the years. She and John Payne, another teacher at Spence, were two of my favorite teachers - and their names rhymed!! She helped me learn to drive, and a few of us actually played word games at her home. She made lasting memories ..she was a special lady and an incredible teacher.*

Janice Curl Wiggins - August 31, 2023 at 10:06 PM



“ *I'm just now learning of the passing of Betty McLain. I'm so sorry I didn't know that she was ill. She was my teacher for English in junior high school. I had her for one year when I was only 15 years old and yet I remember her so clearly after all these years. She made class fun but still held control over the students, because we were somehow smart enough to know how lucky we were to have a teacher of her caliber. And she respected us as students, which made us want to do well in her class. I hope she knew how much her students loved her.*

Sharon Smith Satterwhite - December 15, 2017 at 02:20 AM

FK

“ *Frances Pfeffer Kirlin lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean McLain*



Frances Pfeffer Kirlin - July 13, 2017 at 06:18 PM

FK

“ *Ms. McLain was Simply a Fabulous Teacher. She always got the Best out of her students. My life was richer having had her as a role model for what a teacher should be. May she rest in peace, and her family be blessed with calm spirits.*

Frances Pfeffer Kirlin

Frances Pfeffer Kirlin - July 13, 2017 at 06:17 PM

SC

“ *I was not a fortunate former student of Betty McLain and for that I am sad. I have been a voracious reader all my life and just wrote a book which I hope will be published next year. There is no doubt that I would have been a writer my whole career had a I been a student of this wonderful teacher everyone raves about. God has a very special place for teachers as you have inspired so many to greatness. Rest in peace dear woman.*



Susan Crowe - July 12, 2017 at 11:42 AM

BW

“ Like many of the other former students of Ms. McLain, I too became a teacher. She was tough, demanding and fair.- Bobby Webb class of 1970

Bob Webb - July 08, 2017 at 01:28 PM

SL

“ TJ 66 - I was fortunate to have Ms McLain as a teacher. She challenged us to do better and I am grateful. Dealing with seniors couldn't have been easy!
To her family, please rejoice that she had a life well-spent!
Sally Dedmon Lowry

Sally Lowry - July 07, 2017 at 08:38 AM

BC

“ Ms. McLain was one of my favorite teachers of all time. I took Senior English from her in 1964-65 and admired her incisive analyses and keen wit. I was also somewhat in fear of her wrath which was almost always delivered with humor. Being teased by her, though, was an honor. I recall that when her students submitted an essay, if she didn't find the introductory paragraph sufficiently interesting, she would refuse to read the rest of the essay and return it for some serious revision. She truly brought out the best in her students. One of my favorite memories was that she was on the diploma rolling committee for graduation, and we knew that she slipped notes into the diplomas of at least some of her students. As soon as we got back to our seats with our diplomas, her students were squinting into the rolled up diploma to see if there was a note tucked in. It was an exciting honor to receive one of those encouraging notes on a piece of scrap paper, and I think I still have mine in a box of memorabilia. Ms. McLain influenced so many people in her long and successful life.

Betsy Kernodle Cabell - July 07, 2017 at 12:20 AM

KM

Really kinda upset that I am just now reading about this. I was in South Florida on July 6 but definitely would have returned for her funeral. I wish I could have spoken with her before she died. Ms. McLain was the most influential teacher of my high school years, possibly of my entire pre-college education. She is really the only one that I have looked back on and wished that I would have stayed in touch with. I have no doubt that had I had more teachers like her then I would not have dropped out of high school. She was the only teacher who ever encouraged me and challenged me to reach my potential. High school was such an educational and intellectual wasteland. Later I went on to obtain three bachelors degrees as well as a graduate degree from Columbia University in NY as well as a medical degree. So sad that she passed without my having a chance to thank her for her the inspiration she gave me.

Kelly John Warren, MD - September 28, 2017 at 11:38 AM

CH

“*Betty McLain was one of the best teachers I ever had. She taught me how to study and made me work for every A I made in her class. My life was made better by having her in it. Prayers and thoughts go out to her family and friends. Cindy Harrington - class of 1966.*

Cindy Harrington - July 06, 2017 at 10:25 PM

C1

“*My favorite all time teacher. She made me try harder even though I wasn't a great student. She made me take a final my senior year. When all my friends were going to the lake to party before our graduation I was home studying for my exam. She told me what was going to be the exam. Memorize the textbook to where I could outline it by memory. As weird as it sounds I loved her for the discipline she taught me. She was always great to me, and I considered her a friend as much as a teacher and student can be. Rest in peace Miss McLain. Thanks for being my teacher. Clay Hansard - class of 1966.*

Clay Hansard TJ 1966 - July 06, 2017 at 08:11 PM

DS

“A famous quote asserts that to teach is “to touch a life forever.” Betty McLain’s influence on my life and career was certainly formidable, a career as an English teacher from which I only recently retired after 37 years. Since I heard about her death yesterday, the flow of memories have been strong—some humorous, as when she stuffed me in a trash can and scooted it out into the hall during passing period (to the hilarity of our class). But, as with many who have commented before, one of her finest qualities was that she challenged her students to reach depths of intellectual inquiry and writing mastery we couldn’t have imagined achieving. (For me it was an analysis of the social drama of Henrik Ibsen.)



I spent several summers teaching swimming at Adventure Acres with Betty and Margaret, also now gone to rest. With dogs and horses and the raucous delight of campers, it was good training for life and fostered a love of the outdoors.

*I offer this link to a blessing by John O'Donohue for all grieving Betty's loss. <http://www.poetry-chaikhana.com/blog/2014/06/06/john-odonohue-beannacht-blessing-2/>
May she rest in the arms of Divine Love.*

Pat Saxon

Dr. Pat Saxon - July 06, 2017 at 06:09 PM

MC

*Pat, I was a camper for many years at Adventure Acres and then went on to teach riding there. Betty and Margaret were big parts of my life growing up. I have so many fond memories. I have horses to this day because of them.
I think I remember you.*

Mary Moseley Caulkins - August 19, 2020 at 05:10 PM

DC

“ *The single best Teacher I have ever had in my life - tough but fair and always challenging each and every student to strive for their best! Rest In Peace Ms. McLain!*

Doug Clower - July 06, 2017 at 08:20 AM

EF

“ *She scared me so much but taught me to write so well. She would give an F if we used "it" or "there" in a composition. She advised me to choose difficult subjects for papers (Franz Kafka!), so i would have more to say. She was correct in ALL of her remarks! As a forensic psychologist who wants her long reports to impress attorneys and judges, she helped me become the success I am today. Bless you and may you find rest and well-written reading materials to your heart's content.*

Emily Fallis - July 05, 2017 at 06:31 PM

JL

“ *Juris Laivins:*

I had Betty McClain in 1961 as well as Dorthea McClain in 1960 at TJ. Yes Betty McClain was a great teacher. She made me appreciate reading Shakesspear for the first time. I recall she never let any student get the best of her. She was tough in a positive way. Whenever she admonished a student, he/she knew it was deserved and was the better for it. She is one I always remember fondly.

Juris Laivins - July 05, 2017 at 03:52 PM

SO

I had her for Sr English and I agree with your comment.

Sara Rogers Ousey - July 06, 2017 at 05:53 PM



This amazing lady not only taught me civics, but also she taught my father at North Dallas High !

David Mars - July 08, 2017 at 03:32 PM



“ *JEANNINE HOLLON lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean McLain*



JEANNINE HOLLON - July 05, 2017 at 01:53 PM



Miss Betty McLain-- you are the reason I became an English teacher and an English professor. We will never see another English teacher who will even come close to your greatness. You were tough, a TRUE rebel, and a great role model for your kids. I will never, ever, ever forget you, my captain!

JEANNINE HOLLON - July 05, 2017 at 02:00 PM



“ *Bobbie Candler lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean McLain*



Bobbie Candler - July 05, 2017 at 12:05 PM



Betty McLain was a gifted teacher who seemed to know how to reach different students according to their abilities and their needs. Her expectations were high and she helped kids rise to the occasion. We truly need more teachers like her. Prayers and Peace to her family and friends.

Bobbie Candler - July 05, 2017 at 12:08 PM

P'

“ Mrs. McLain was a wonderful teacher for me. One time she caught me cheating on a spelling test of all things. She made me take home the test to have both my parents sign it and bring it back to her. I was horrified to get their signatures. As a result, I never cheated again the remainder of my HS years and never cheated in college or graduate school. Her catching me and the manner in which she handled it has served me tremendously my entire life. I have told each of my 3 kids this story on multiple occasions.

Paul Hamilton (class of '79') - July 05, 2017 at 11:24 AM

RC

“ Robin Casady lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean McLain



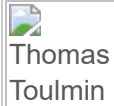
Robin Casady - July 05, 2017 at 10:26 AM

LA

“ I to remember her in my Jr yr 1971 and how she made the entire class memorize a passage from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and then recite it in front of the class. I remember having the same thoughts but I to got thru it.
She was a great teacher.
R.I.P.



Laura - July 04, 2017 at 08:38 PM



Thomas
Toulmin

“ *Betty McLain was my junior English teacher at Thomas Jefferson in 1962. I'm 72 and a former teacher myself, and I don't remember much of high school, but I remember her and her class well. She made the entire class memorize a passage from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and then recite it in front of the class. I remember thinking there was no way I could memorize my selection -- Mark Anthony's speech -- and then tell it to the class, but I did it. It was a great confidence builder. She was an outstanding teacher who imparted learning and motivation at the same time. My deepest condolences.*

Thomas Toulmin - July 04, 2017 at 04:44 PM

JN

Deepest condolences to my 8th grade English teacher.

Judy Lipman Nassif - July 05, 2017 at 03:54 PM

SK

“ *I began working for Betty when I was 14 years old at her day camp. She taught me more than anyone could ever imagine. She loved those children and her horses! She filled a spot in my life when I needed a friend and encouraged me to always go forward to my goals. We continued that friendship until her last moments on earth. I know she is now in a better place and at peace. Thank you Betty and I love you and will miss you.*
Your forever friend, Sheri
God Bless You

Sheri Keele Kohutek - July 04, 2017 at 12:06 PM

JH

Sheri-- I had no idea, but this makes sense! I'm jealous that you got to work at Betty's camp. Hope all is well with you and yours!

JEANNINE HOLLON - July 05, 2017 at 02:08 PM

BB

“ Where do I start Betty , You , Zell and I had many great times over the last 30+ years , I always felt proud to be your Miniature Horse trainer over the years . I will miss you deeply and so sorry I have been out of touch , I always have Loved you and Zell like my second Moms , Fly Free my Friend you no longer hurt and are in the best house in the world . Please say hello to Dad , he also thought the world of you and Zell !



Belinda Bagby - June 30, 2017 at 10:25 PM