



Dorothy Hightower Obituary

May 29, 1941 - February 26, 2014

Dorothy Turnage Hightower of Oak Ridge passed away February 26, 2014, surrounded by family and friends. She was born May 29, 1941 in Kosciusko Mississippi and later moved to Lake, Mississippi, and then to Newton, Mississippi. She graduated from Newton high school, and attended the University of Mississippi, Tulane University, the University of Tennessee, and Roane State Community College. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity at Ole Miss. She earned an associate's degree in respiratory therapy from Roane State.

She married her husband of 52 years, J. Robert Hightower, on June 24, 1961.

Dot, as she was known by her friends, moved to Oak Ridge from New Orleans in 1964. A powerful and beautiful force of nature, she was active in many organizations and roles in the community. She was one of the early members of Planned Parenthood Association of the Southern Mountains. She served as president of the Oak Ridge Art Center in 1995, and as president of Ossoli Circle in Knoxville in 1999-2000. She was a graduate of Leadership Oak Ridge, Class of 1995. In her early years in Oak Ridge she was a member of the League of Women Voters and taught Sunday School at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. She had strong faith in Christ and was a member of the Women's Interfaith Dialog Group. She was one of the founding members of the Oak Ridge Institute of Continued Learning (ORICL), and was a Paul Harris Fellow out of the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge. In 2013 she received a Tributes to the Arts Award presented by the Arts Council of Oak Ridge for her years of support to the Oak Ridge Art Center. She was a commissioner on the City of Oak Ridge Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, serving as chair of that board in 2013.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wade Hollingsworth Turnage and Maude McMullan Turnage, and by a brother Wade Hollingsworth Turnage, Jr., all of Newton, MS. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Alison Mancuso (husband Peter), of Canton, Michigan, and by three grandchildren: Jonathan, Christopher, and Amanda Mancuso. She leaves many, many friends in Oak Ridge.

Funeral services will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Oak Ridge at 3:00 p.m. on March 8, 2014, followed by interment in the Memorial Garden at St. Stephen's and a reception at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to the Oak Ridge Art Center, P. O. Box 7005, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-3305 or to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 212 Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Comments



“ Alison,

I will never forget all of the wonderful times we all had at "The Lake House" in large part due to your Mother's generosity and hospitality. Connie and I will keep you and your family in our prayers.

Jim Scruggs - Ramona, CA - March 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Robert and family:

Only Dot could make this Yankee love the south. Tennessee was my first stop after leaving my home in NYC and Dot helped make living there a cherished memory. I'll always remember her vivacious spirit and warm and loving heart. I am so sorry for your loss.

With love,

Chevon Fuller

Chevon Fuller - Charleston, SC, SC - Friend - March 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bob and Family:

We are so sorry to hear about Dot's passing. We will always remember the wonderful times that we shared at the Chem Tech functions. She was a beautiful lady on the inside as well as on the outside. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Mike and Wanda Gilliam - Oak Ridge, TN - Friends - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bob and family,

We knew Dot as a gracious lady and as a warm friend to us and others that she touched. She was such a strong leader in the community and will be dearly missed. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you in this moment of great sorrow.

Sincerely,
Dorothy and Emory Collins



“ Dear Bob and Family,

I am very sorry for the loss of your dear wife. Dot She certainly had a full and interesting life, and I wish I had the opportunity to meet her. You are in my thoughts and prayers. My deepest sympathy and condolences to you and your family.

Most sincerely,

Steve Storch
Oak Ridge, TN

Steve Storch - Oak Ridge, TN - Friend and co-worker at ORNL - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Robert and Alison,
Harlan and I are at a loss for words to express our dismay at the sudden passing of my dear cousin. We were so looking forward to a visit this spring to share more memories with Dorothy Dimple. I am so thankful for the many phone visits she and I had over the past few years. We told each other we were kindred souls. May she rest in peace and may God comfort you.
With love and prayers,
Ida

Ida and Harlan Lee - Shreveport, LA - first cousin - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bob,
John and I are so sorry for your loss. We have you in our thoughts and prayers.

John and Susan Gunning - Oak Ridge, TN - friends - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob:

It was a shock to learn of Dot's passing. I have interacted with her so many times and in so many ways around Oak Ridge that I know her as a "force" within the community. We have been blessed by her presence and it is truly sad to lose her. You have my sincere sympathy. Dub

Dub Shults - Oak Ridge, TN - Friend - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Allison,

I was so sorry to learn of your mothers' death. Be assured of my prayers for you and your your father. May she RIP.

Anne McGaugh - Oak Ridge, TN - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob - I'm so sorry for your loss. You and Allison are in my prayers.

Clemence Noakes - Knoxville, TN - Friend - March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ We love Dot so dearly. We can only imagine how crushing this must be for you you Robert as well as Alison and her family. Her life was so large, the emptiness of her loss is immense. We will be driving in for her service and look forward to sharing our affection for her with you. Please know we are praying for your peace and comfort and searching for ways to honor her.

Marvin & Christine Thomas - League City, TX - friends - March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM