



Martha Parks McKinstry

April 30, 1929 - February 14, 2016

Martha Parks McKinstry, 86, passed away on Sunday, February 14, at Parkwest Hospital in Knoxville. A resident of Oak Ridge since 1943, Martha was born in Cleveland, Tn., on April 30, 1929.

Martha was in the first Oak Ridge High School graduating class and attended the University of Tennessee prior to starting her career at Union Carbide in 1948. In her twenties, Martha worked in Carbide's Nuclear Physics Library and became the Engineering Records Department supervisor at the Y-12 plant, a status perhaps made inevitable by her intelligence and wit, combined with remarkable industry, kindness, and beauty. A current employee in the ICU unit at Parkwest who interned at Y-12 in the mid-fifties recalls that Martha was "such a good supervisor and so pretty" and that "everybody liked her and wanted to do a good job for her; she was just that kind of supervisor." She earned full retirement benefits from Carbide/Martin Marietta at age 54 and afterwards was able to enjoy thirty-two active years of living. In those many years she especially enjoyed traveling with husband Mac, gardening and enjoying nature, spending time with children and grandchildren, and taking good care of a succession of resident and visiting doggy pets, including Tippy, Tucson, Patches, and most recently Jack, whom Martha rescued five years ago through SARG (Shelter Animals Rescue Group) and who now resides with Martha's daughter, son-in-law, and their own doggy children Archie and Max. A true animal-lover, Martha (with husband Mac) also enjoyed a wonderful pet cat, Boris, in the seventies and eighties, before her many years of caring for an assortment of very lucky dogs.

Martha was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge.

Martha was preceded in death by husband William Lawrence "Mac" McKinstry; parents Robert G. Parks and Ruth Taylor Parks; and brother, Robert G. Parks, Jr. She is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Bill Randolph; son, Doug; grandsons, Josh Reynolds (and wife Melissa Norton) and Adam McKinstry; great-granddaughter, Ida Sojourner; Bill's sons, Randy, Dean (and wife Krissa); great-grandson, Alexander Dean Randolph; and her three beloved nieces, Laura Parks Carr, Marty Parks Colwell, and Mary Parks Stier.

A private memorial service will be held, pending announcement. In lieu of flowers,

donations may be made to SARG.

An online register book is available at www.martinfuneralhomeoakridge.com.

Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Comments



“ Doug & Linda:

Sending you love and support in this time of transition and loss. Martha was such a remarkable, loving and beautiful being. I treasure the memories of the times I was fortunate enough to visit or stay at your home and experience her loving presence.

The world was a better place when she was with us.

Love,

Jim Strohecker

Jim Strohecker - February 20, 2016 at 02:55 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Martha's passing. She was a very sweet lady. I worked with Mac for

many years and Martha and I became friends.

Janice Lovelace - February 17, 2016 at 08:19 PM



“ I am so sorry to read of Martha's passing. She was such a fine lady. Martha and my mother (Alma Bays) were friends. After mother passed away Martha and I stayed in touch. I always loved talking to her and though we only talked a few times a year I will miss those talks. She was so proud of her kids and loved to tell me all about them. Thinking of all at this time.

Sharon Bays Spainhour - February 16, 2016 at 12:32 PM



“ Martha was an asset to her family, community and everyone she touched. She was my mother's cousin and we deeply regret her passing. Condolences to Doug and Linda.

Mike Harrington - February 18, 2016 at 07:15 PM



“ I have fond memories of Martha from my childhood. Later in life when I had the chance to visit with her I realized what a truly special person she was. Her sense of humor and positive outlook on life always amazed me. I was saddened to learn of Martha's passing and wish to express my condolences to all her family and especially Doug and Linda. Ellen Gussie

Ellen Gussie - February 19, 2016 at 07:32 PM



“ Linda

I was so sorry to read about your mothers passing. Prayers for you and her other family members. May God hold you in his arms.

Janice Baker Sanders

Janice Baker Sanders - February 21, 2016 at 09:17 PM



“ I have known Martha since the year 1951. She hired me at Y-12. She was a really good Supervisor. Bill, Chuck, and I have been friends with her for a long time. We had a lot of good times with her and Mac. Our sympathy goes out to Doug, Linda, and the family

Betty Walker

Betty Walker - February 22, 2016 at 06:18 PM