



Sylvia Graves

December 5, 1944 - September 4, 2012

Sylvia Van Allen Graves was born on December 5, 1944, at Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield, Alabama. She grew up in Sheffield, Alabama and was homecoming queen at Sheffield High School in 1963.

She attended the University of Alabama, was a member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and graduated with a B.S. Political Science degree in 1967. Mrs. Graves went on to teach elementary education at Town Creek. She later moved to Russellville with her husband, Dr. John Terry Graves and there she raised two daughters, Kelly and Laurie. After seeing her girls off to college she studied and earned a Master's degree in Learning Disabilities from the University of North Alabama. She then worked for Russellville City Schools as Director of Early Childhood Intervention for 17 years and retired with receiving Russellville City Schools Teacher of the Year Award.

Sylvia, was the kindest, most generous and caring person always willing to put others before herself. Most recently she served on the Board of Directors for Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Her spirit and legacy will live on through all of those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Funeral service will be Thursday, September 6, 2012, 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Russellville, with Bro. Clint Busler and Bro. Bo Lloyd officiating. The body will be placed in the church one hour prior to the service

from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Sheffield. Visitation will be Wednesday, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home, Russellville.

Survivors include husband, Dr. John Terry Graves, Muscle Shoals; children, Dr. Kelly Van Graves Guthrie, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Stephanie Laurel Graves Rubbo, Dallas, Texas; brothers, Charles Owen Allen, Muscle Shoals, James Morrison Allen, Florence, Roland Benoit Allen, Jr., Charlotte, N.C.; grandchildren, Megan Elizabeth Guthrie, Payton Caroline Guthrie, John Mehegan Rubbo, Magdalene Claire Rubbo; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by parents, Roland Benoit Allen and Ina Claire Hill Allen.

Pinkard Funeral Home Russellville will be directing.

Previous Events

Service

SEP 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church-Russellville
311 Jackson Avenue North
Russellville, AL

Tribute Wall



“ Kelly and Family. We are sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.##imported-begin##Randy and Michelle McGuire##imported-end##

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“ To the Graves Family:
Sylvia and I worked together at Russellville City Headstart Program. She was such a dear sweet lady. She and I became instant friends. We shared so many laughs and a lot less tears. We confided in each other about so many things. There were times when we managed to find a little humor in some of our woes.
Daughters, you can find comfort in knowing that your mom is resting safely in the arms of the Lord. No more worries, no more pain, and no more sorrows.
I will miss her dearly but in Christ Jesus, I believe we shall meet again.
May the Lord supply you with comfort and strength during this most difficult time.
I can be reached at 256-627-5334.
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