



Mrs. Mary Alice Rice

September 8, 1941 - December 14, 2023

Memorial services for Mrs. Mary Alice Rice, 82, of Henderson, will be at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 21, 2023 at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home chapel with Pastor Brad McKenzie and Pastor Matt Korzeniewski officiating. A Memorial Visitation will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at Crawford - A. Crim Funeral Home.

Mary Alice Hudman Rice, age 82, transitioned to her heavenly home on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at her home in Brachfield Texas. Mary Alice or "Alice" as she was lovingly called by family and close friends, was born on September 8, 1941 in Mt. Enterprise, Texas to Graham and Verna Owens Hudman. She graduated from Henderson High School with the class of 1959 and remained loyal to her classmates celebrating with them their 65th reunion just 2 weeks ago. After high school, Mary Alice attended Massey Business College and entered the workforce as a secretary for SWEPCO and later Hearne Oil Company in Longview. Always the workaholic, Mary Alice worked after hours at Oil Bowling Alley where she met and fell in love with John Kennedy. They were married on February 18, 1962 making their home first in Farmington, New Mexico and later in Denver, Colorado where the love of both their lives, Justin Neel, was born.

Shortly after their move to Denver, Mary's mother suffered a devastating car accident and later in the year Mary's father also suffered a catastrophic injury.

Mary returned home for several months to care for her parents and for her twin sisters, Ann and Jan, who were 9 at the time. Thus began her life-long commitment to caring for family and friends in every way possible.

While in Denver, Mary, as she was known there, worked as a secretary for the Colorado Baptist Association, then as an executive marketing assistant for Great Western Sugar Company. She was also a representative for Hallmark owning a store in Denver for a period of time. And, she even owned a small boutique in Fredericksburg, Texas where dolls, jewelry, paintings and more were sold.

Mary Alice returned to Texas in 1994 where she worked for Haliburton until 2002. From 2002 until 2013, Mary worked for Qualicare of East Texas, a home health agency in which she was a co-owner, and later at MJS & Associates, from which she retired on September 8, 2013. But she never stopped her volunteer work for the people she loved and those who needed her in any way. This was her “serving community and church” phase that was no longer impeded by the work-day. She read to children at the Mt. Enterprise library, handed out food at the local food bank, and took care of every stray cat (and person) that she encountered.

Throughout her life, Mary Alice had a passion for music, primarily Southern gospel music. From an early age, she sang in a quartet or trio in church and in later years in community settings. She was inspired by the singing of gospel groups, often traveling hundreds of miles in a single evening to hear preaching and singing of her favorites – Mark Trammel Quartet, The Talleys, Greater Vision, The Gaither Vocal Band, The Calvary Boys, Grounded, and of course, David Phelps, among many others. She had gospel running buddies, Marsha, Kay, Becca, Marilyn, and others who traveled with her to concerts with the latest gospel CDs playing loudly in her car. She went with her friends on at least six gospel music cruises in the past 15 years. Mary found ways to

fund and/or sponsor concerts in East Texas to keep the genre alive for the younger generation. She introduced young family members to gospel music and even paid for music lessons with some of the great singers – especially for Ally who, to this day, credits “Aunt Alice” for her start in music.

Throughout her life, Mary always loved and supported her church home – wherever that was. She was a long-time member of University Hills Baptist Church in Denver where she sang in the choir. Most recently Mary was a member of First Baptist Church in Mt. Enterprise attending regularly even in the latter days while receiving treatments. She sang in church choirs wherever she lived, even sharing her alto voice most recently with her sister’s choir in Nacogdoches because it was “needed.”

Mary was preceded in death by husbands John Kennedy and Don Rice, her parents, and a brother Edwin Graham.

She is survived by her son Justin of Denver Colorado, her sisters and brothers-in law Jan & Charlie Spears of Nacogdoches, and Ann and Dean Ragsdale of Pine Hill. Also surviving are close nieces and nephew including Tiffany Fuller, Sandy Gross, Jessica Ragsdale, and Zachary (Heather) Ragsdale.

Aunt Alice also shared her boundless gifts of love, laughter and music with “bonus” grandchildren including Alyssa, Jenna, Josie, Kate, Jackson and Madilyn, and most recently with bonus “greats” including Cooper, Charlotte, Kulton, and Paisley.

No doubt, Mary has joined the heavenly choir which she has looked forward to all her adult life and is now singing praises to her Lord and King for all eternity.

“So now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” - 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Donations may be made in Mary’s name to:

Samaritan’s Purse

P.O. Box 3000

NC 28607

Shiloh Cemetery Fund

Verabank – Shiloh Cemetery

C/o Tracy Cadenhead

11105CR 3131

Mt. Enterprise, TX 75681

Morning Star Food Pantry of Mt. Enterprise

210 North Railroad St

Mr. Enterprise, Texas 75681

Condolences may be made at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Memorial Service

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall



“ *Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Mary Alice Rice*



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - December 21, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ *Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Mary Alice Rice*



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - December 19, 2023 at 02:29 PM

MW

Absolutely beautiful.

Marcia Winn - December 20, 2023 at 03:11 AM

JK

Mary was one of my wonderful cousins. Will miss her and her beautiful smile. She was always smiling and such a happy lady! Loved her so much.

Janelle Klintworth - December 20, 2023 at 01:16 PM

VI

“ Our prayers are with those Mary Alice left behind. Cherish the many wonderful memories she leaves behind until you see her again. An amazing lady from an awesome family.
Love Vicki, Pam, Paula Pinkerton



Vicki - June 28, 2024 at 05:56 PM

LJ

“ Louis, Chandler And Corben Johns lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice



Louis, Kathy, Chandler And Corben Johns - December 21, 2023 at 12:08 AM

SA

“ We are just so very sorry for your loss. Mary was such a sweet lady with a beautiful smile. The world was a better place because of her and she will be missed.



Steve and Sheila Alford - December 20, 2023 at 09:58 AM

RH

“ I always loved seeing Mary Alice, Justin & John during holiday breaks, summer visits & family reunions. Christmas caroling with her (& the rest of the family) being one of my fondest childhood memories. She was always very sweet & kind (like Uncle Graham & Aunt Verna) & will be missed.

Randy Hudman - December 19, 2023 at 10:36 PM

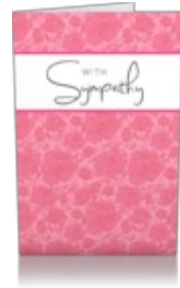
EH

“*Mary Alice was a part of many happy memories growing up & we would always look forward to her visits. She was a wonderfully kind person & we will miss her greatly.*”

Eddie, Randy, Elise & Ethan Hudman - December 19, 2023 at 10:24 PM

KK

“*Kathy K. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mrs. Mary Alice Rice.*”



Kathy K. - December 19, 2023 at 04:08 PM

SM

“*My condolences to the family. Mary was such a blessing to all that knew her and she will be truly missed.*”



Shannon Mckey - December 19, 2023 at 10:21 AM

SO

“ Mary was such an amazing JOY to be around. God's presence shown thorough her at all times and touched each of us in her special smile and the love of Jesus she shared.

Oh how I will miss her and pray that her family will hold on tight to the memories of knowing just how much she meant to each of us who were blessed to have called her friend.

Stephanie Oman-Longview Texas

Stephanie Oman - December 17, 2023 at 08:11 PM

KG

“ She was a light to all. A true heavenly sent angel sent down to teach us to be better ❤️ we will miss you our sweet Aunt Alice but will by your beautiful example 🙏



Kate Garrett - December 17, 2023 at 07:24 PM

DN

“ Newman lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice



Donna Newman - December 17, 2023 at 12:12 PM

RJ

“ *Such a sweet lady. Sending hugs to Jan and Ann.*



Rena Akin Jordan - December 17, 2023 at 06:58 AM

CB

“ *Carolyn Boren lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice*



Carolyn Orr Boren - December 16, 2023 at 07:56 PM

MW

“ *My condolences to the family which was the light of her life. Mary and I went all over the country to gospel concerts, by car, bus, airplane and cruise ship. I'm sure she is in heaven listening to all the gospel singers gone before. She will be so missed.*



Marcia Winn - December 16, 2023 at 05:00 PM

JW

“ *Jane Williams lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice*



Jane Williams - December 16, 2023 at 12:09 PM

CB

I grew up with Mary Alice in Brachfield Texas and went to school at Patrick and church at Patrick Church. So I knew her all my life. She was a good Christian and could she sing.

Carolyn Orr Boren - December 16, 2023 at 08:05 PM



I went to school with Mary Alice and had choir with her. She was a great singer as well as a wonderful person. My condolences to family members as I know she will be dearly missed.

Shirley Christie - December 19, 2023 at 07:50 PM

DA

“ *Donna Aaron lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice*



Donna J Aaron - December 15, 2023 at 11:12 PM

CW

“ *Mary Alice was a sweet, smart lady with a lovely singing voice. She was among the best in the class of 1959 and will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know her. Cyndy Willard*

Cyndy Willard - December 15, 2023 at 11:08 PM

CM

“ *Charlcy Matlock lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice*



Charlcy Matlock - December 15, 2023 at 10:51 PM

DC

“ *Loved this lady. She was so sweet and could really sing! Such a great Christian lady. Rest sweetheart you have won the race the rewards are for you.*
Our Deepest Sympathies,
David & Kathy Chapman



David & Kathy Chapman - December 15, 2023 at 04:18 PM

CN

“ *charvelle nugent lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice*



charvelle nugent - December 15, 2023 at 03:19 PM

CN

“ *Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Alice Rice*



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - December 15, 2023 at 12:30 PM

TV

“ *A wonderful lady who will be missed by all who knew her.*



Tom Vaught - December 15, 2023 at 11:07 AM

TB

“ *Toni Barton lit a candle in memory of Mary Rice*



Toni Barton - December 15, 2023 at 03:15 AM

TB

“ *Rest in peace sweetheart. Fly with the Angels sweetheart. You are with your Momma now.*



Toni Barton - December 14, 2023 at 10:03 PM