



Casket Bearers

Warren Jenkins, Sr.
Charles Medearis, Esq.
Trenton Murphy
Kenneth Bell, Esq.

Michael Medearis
Gerald Murphy, Jr.
Chris Medearis

Honorary Casket Bearers

Damon Murphy
Joseph Darby
Hardy Ray Murphy III, Esq.

James Robert Darby
Donnie Darby
Luther Baker

Special Thanks

The family would like to give special thanks to all who have kept our mother in their thoughts, prayers, and well wishes, and for their condolences. We would also like to thank the Mckinley Heights Terrace neighbors for their support. Special thanks to Nurse Dianna Dean Mobile Consultants for the elder care supportive advice.

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery
3304 E. 12th Street
Austin, Texas 78721

Final Arrangements Entrusted to

The Caring Professionals of
King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.
1300 E. 12th Street
Austin, Texas 78702
www.king-tearsmortuary.com
(512) 476-9128

Memorial Program Options Austin, Texas 512-387-0904

Celebration of Life

Claudie Mae Medearis Murphy



Sunrise
November 4, 1926

Sunset
April 23, 2021

Service of Love

Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 2:00 PM
King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.
1300 E. 12th Street
Austin, Texas 78702

Reverend Donald E. Brewington,
Chaplain, Huston-Tillotson University, Officiating

Journey of Life

Claudie Mae Medearis Murphy, age 94, passed away on April 23, 2021. She was born at her childhood family home, 2009 Comal Street, Austin, Texas, November 4, 1926, to I. D. Medearis and Emma (Crawford) Medearis. She was the 4th born of 5 siblings.

She joined New Hope Baptist Church as a youth and played piano for the youth choir and also for the 19th Street Baptist Church. Claudie attended Olive Street Elementary School and Kealing Junior High School, and she was a 1943 graduate of Anderson High School where she was the 1942 Yellow Jacket Bi-District Championship Football Team Sweetheart. She attended Prairie View A & M and Tillotson College, receiving her B.A. degree in 1947. After graduating from Tillotson College, Claudie married Hardy Ray Murphy, Sr. (fellow Yellow Jacket, Samuel Huston graduate, and a renowned Austin jazz musician and trumpet player in the big band and bebop eras of the locale music scene).

Claudie and Hardy Ray moved to Bryan, Texas, where he was band director at Kemp High School and Claudie began the role of housewife and mother to their two sons, Hardy Ray, Jr., and Gerald. After residing in Bryan for four years, the family relocated to Hobbs, New Mexico where Hardy Ray joined the Hobbs, New Mexico public schools to become band director of Booker T. Washington High School. Though both intended to pursue careers in the public schools in Hobbs, Claudie was not able to pursue her teaching passion at the time, because having two wage earners in the family being paid through the public school system was not permitted. Instead, Claudie continued to be the family’s foundation, making home and hearth for her two boys and a daughter, Debra, who was born into the family early in their New Mexico sojourn.

Their time in New Mexico was defined by the early years of public-school integration, and she recalled with pride their experiences in this struggle when her husband was called to desegregate the public schools there as a junior high school English Language Arts teacher and the resolve it took to weather the storm of resistance they encountered in the process. During this time, Claudie played piano for the Sunday School at Lane Chapel Methodist Church, served on the Washington Elementary School PTA, hosted the Methodist Church Missionary Society meetings at the family home, and became the first African American woman to serve on the city’s Community Concert Board, where one notable achievement was to bring Duke Ellington to the Southeastern New Mexico community to regale this rustic oil field region with his incomparable musical exemplification of African-American excellence.

Claudie taught second grade in Hobbs, New Mexico at Washington Elementary School after the school system’s restriction on two wage earners in the family was lifted. Following the untimely death of her husband, Hardy Ray Murphy, Sr., she obtained her Master in Education from Eastern New Mexico University and became a lifelong member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She was the first African American classroom teacher at Coronado Elementary School in Hobbs, New Mexico, serving as a pioneer alongside her husband during the desegregation of the schools in New Mexico. She became a member of the New Mexico State Teachers Association, and the National Education Association. She returned to Austin where she continued to embrace her Christian faith by joining Simpson United Methodist Church and taught second grade at Norman Elementary School for 14 years until she retired from AISD.



Those involved with her career efforts and her civic work knew her to be considerate, engaging, and respectful of others. Her students remark that she made a difference in their lives through her love of teaching reading and writing and the expanding of their world awareness and confidence in themselves while in her classroom. People often remarked in admiration of the graceful lines of her cursive script that achieved certificated recognition in her school day awards.

These characteristics defined her relationship with all who crossed paths with her. An accomplished woman with an unassuming reservoir of compassion, she was discerning in her taste and passionate about the beauty and excellence of life. She enjoyed music in all of its forms and genres, knew the classics of literature, and appreciated the little and grand miracles of life. She could name all of the flowers, trees, and fabrics. She understood that in the love of family and friends, the joy and meaning of life is found. The laughter of family and friends filled the air during holiday gatherings and drop-in visits in her home. All who entered celebrated shared experiences of lives blessed by the grace of the merciful and beneficent God that guided the steps of her life. As a wife, mother, and professional educator, who was a participating member of a vibrant African American community, she did it all at a time when for women to assume all of these roles was just coming of age.

She leaves behind to mourn her passing and celebrate her life and home going sons Hardy Ray Murphy, Jr., Ph.D., (Lynette Pierce Murphy), Gerald Murphy, (Darlene Smith Murphy); daughter Dr. Debra L. Murphy; stepson Stanley Murphy (Juthamard K. Murphy); grandchildren Hardy Ray Murphy III, Esq., Tyler Murphy, Gerald Murphy, Jr., Damon Murphy, Darla Murphy, Michelle Murphy Bell, Esq. and Kelly Murphy Jenkins and spouses and children, Shannon Murphy; great grandchildren Dakotah Murphy, Brayden Murphy, Trenton Murphy; nephews James Robert Darby, Jr., Don Darby, Joseph Darby, Michael Medearis, Charles Medearis, and Chris Medearis; nieces and great nieces Charlotte Medearis Hawkins, Leslie Medearis, Charmia Medearis, Dr. Davetta Hill Daniels; and Glenda Hill Hood; and a host of other great nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives in the historical extended East Austin Medearis and Murphy family network. She will be missed, remembered and loved.

Order of Service

Please Silence Electronic Devices

Viewing	
Processional	Clergy, Casket Bearers and Family
Medley (during processional).....	Dr. Beulah Agnes C. Jones
Welcome & Scripture (Psalm 121:1-8).....	Reverend Donald E. Brewington, University Chaplain, Huston-Tillotson University
“Ave Maria” (Schubert).....	Dr. Beulah Agnes C. Jones, Mezzo Soprano
Resolutions	Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Silent Reading of Obituary	
Family Remembrances	Hardy Ray Murphy, Jr.
“How Great Thou Art”	Charles Medearis, Esq.
Eulogy.....	Reverend Donald E. Brewington
Closing from King-Tears	
Recessional	
“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”	Dr. Beulah Agnes C. Jones

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.