



Martha Jean Boswell Sams

April 5, 1930 - April 5, 2012

Martha Jean Boswell Sams, 82, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 5, 2012 in Rockwood, Tennessee, formally of Bristol, Virginia. She was born April 28, 1929 to Octave and Robert C. Boswell in Richmond, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, John Neal Sams. She was a caring mother and grandmother who shared her warmth and her love of art with all who knew her.

She is survived by her son Rob Sams of Watauga, TN; son Jeff Sams and wife Melinda of Greer, SC; daughter Beth Sams Plemmons and husband Mark of Oak Ridge, TN; daughter Sally Sams Huceby and husband Huck of Kingston, TN; daughter in law Pam Pearson Sams; grandchildren Jordan and Ian Sams, Laura and Kevin Sams, Taylor Plemmons Burson and husband Brian, Carson Plemmons McGregor and husband Kent, and Kyler Huceby; and her great grandson, Jim Burson.

She is also survived by her sister, Archer Boswell Parsons and husband, Tom of Bristol, VA; son Tom Parsons Jr. and wife Shelley and daughters Annie and Katie; and son Steve and wife Vikki; and by her godson, Matthew Crymble; and by family friend Ian Murphy.

Mrs. Sams taught Art in the city school systems of Oak Ridge, TN, Charlotte, NC and Memphis, TN. She also taught pre-school at Sullins Academy in

Bristol, VA. She was a lifelong member of State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, where she and her husband, Neal worked with the church youth program for many years. She served on the Board of Stewards of State Street United Methodist Church and on the First Methodist Church Kindergarten Board of Directors. She also served on the Border Guild/Junior League Administrative Board and on the Tri-Cities Arts Council. She was a sustaining member of the Blue Stocking Club, and served on the board of Girls, Inc. of Bristol, VA.

The family will receive friends from 12:30pm until 2pm Saturday April 21, 2012 at the State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, Virginia followed by Celebration of Life at 2pm. The family will be staying at The Courtyard, 3169 Linden Drive, Bristol, VA and will have a hospitality room for friends or family to come by and visit on Saturday evening.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Grand Court in Bristol, VA and at The Bridge at Rockwood in Rockwood, TN for their kind care and friendship. Instead of flowers, friends are encouraged to consider a donation to The University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Center, 250 South Stadium Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996; or to the State Street United Methodist Church Youth Ministry, 300 W. Valley Drive, Bristol, VA 24201.

Tribute Wall

AS

“ I remember Mrs. Sams from my childhood when I would go and visit my Nana at the Grand Court. The first time my sister and I met her she was working on a 3D puzzle of the Eiffel Tower and asked if we wanted to join. We say out there for what felt like forever, yet no time at all, until we finished the puzzle together. She was one of our all-time favorite people. One visit she gifted my sister and I gold bracelets. I still have that bracelet over 17 years later. We loved going to visit her little room and hear stories of her past, her collection of giraffes, and doing even more puzzles. She also gifted us one of her 3D puzzles since we loved them so much. I still think about her to this day and I am so grateful for all the time we got to spend with her.



Ashley Smith - December 06, 2024 at 12:50 AM

CJ

“ Dear Jeff, Rob, Beth, and Sally,
So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I just wanted to let you know that I was thinking of you and sending my prayers. Take care.
With kind regards,
Tucker

Cindy Tucker - Greenville, SC - Friend of Jeff - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Rob, Sally, Beth and Jeff,
Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel about Martha Jean's death. It was an honor and a privilege to have known both your father Neal, and your mother. The years we spent as neighbors will be lodged in my memory forever as being the best of times. She and Neal embraced us as if we were their own. My children came to know them in an intimate way that helped shape the people they are today, and for that I am forever grateful. Grateful to you for sharing them with us. We are here to support you in your grieving process. It is painful to see a loved one go... especially one who was as animated and charismatic as your mother. Martha Jean brought so many gifts to our life, to the community, and to the world. We will never forget her! May your hearts and souls find peace and comfort in the memories of her legacy.
Peace, Prayers and Blessings,
Susan Walling

Susan Walling - Bristol, VA - Neighbor - April 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Our hearts go out to you in the passing of your mother, Marty. Ofcourse Neal and Dad (Bob) were very close in age, and playmates growing up. Mom remembers well when Neal and Marty married. Distance has kept us children from getting to know each other well, but we know we share a common heritage and we feel for you in your loss. May God Bless you all as you gather to worship and remember your dear mother.
Mildred Sams and Children, Charlie, Susan, Steven, and Alan

Charlie Sams - Asheville, NC - great nephew - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Jeff, Rob, Beth, Sally,
I was so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was a wonderful person who bestowed so much to so many. I will always remember the good times we had together and your mom's good nature and positive spirit. Something that was passed to each of you. Know that I am thinking about you all and keeping the family in my prayers.

Billy

Bill Lillard - Chapel Hill, NC - Friend - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

IM

“ *Leasa and I were saddened to hear of Martha Jean's sudden passing into God's kingdom. As my grandmother (whom many of you know) use to always say "Death is as much a part of life as being born... and we should be thankful that we had the opportunity to know and have them in our lives, no matter how long or short." I thank God every day that Martha Jean was in my life.*

Ian Murphy & Leasa Bailey

Ian Murphy - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *Rob, Jordan and Ian -*

I was sorry to hear about Martha Jean's passing. Praying and knowing that God will carry you through this difficult time.

Becky

Becky Wyatt - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Rob, Beth, Jeff and Sally,

I have great memories of your Mom and your family at Easter, making eggs and who knows what else. All of you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. She is finally with your Dad in heaven!!!

*Love,
Lynn Ross (Smitherman)*

Lynn Ross - Oak Ridge, TN - Friend of family - April 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I WILL MISS MY DEAR N LOVING FRIEND FOR WHOM I GOT TO SHARE ALOT OF GOOD MEMEORIES WITH.SHE TAUGHT ME ALOT N SHARED ALOT .SHE WAS ALWAYS KIND TO WHOM SHE WAS IN CONTACT WITH .MARTHA I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU .GOD BLESS YOU FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT.I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN WE WILL CONTINUE OUR TALKS.

MRS.ROBIN CHAPMAN - BRISTOL, TN - FRIEND - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ I remember Martha being such a strong woman and she was so sweet to me. My thoughts and prayers to all of you.

Leslie Briggs Lowe - TN - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Jeff, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. Look to the Lord for peace, comfort and understanding. He will get you through like nothing else can. God bless.

Debra Cutler-Lurie - Tampa, FL - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ My mother, Elizabeth Ann Massengill Moore, from Bristol, loved Martha Jean! I have heard many stories about them growing up. Mom and I are both sorry for your loss.

Dana Moore - Nashville, TN - friend - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Mrs. Sams was a huge part of my life growing up. Heaven has gained a wonderful woman and we have lost the same.

Dave Tipton - Woodbury, TN - 2nd mother - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ She was my other mother and dear friend. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Kathy Kelly Dunagan - Macon, GA - friend - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

J&

“ Rest In Peace.

Jr & Martha - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ So sorry for your loss. The family will be in my prayers.

Susan M. Leonard - Atlanta, GA - April 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM