



Pearl Drinnen Williams

August 31, 1924 - April 23, 2023

Pearl Drinnen Williams, age 98, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 23, 2023. She was a Christian, a retired educator, and loving wife, aunt, great aunt and soon-to-be great-great aunt.

Pearl was a long-time, active member of Trenton Street Baptist Church where she sang in the choir and ministered to the homebound.

Pearl was a graduate of Carson-Newman College and the University of Tennessee, and worked professionally in the field of public education for 60 years until the age of 82, teaching at all levels, coaching basketball, serving as a guidance counselor, and as an administrator in Roane County Schools. She was active in Delta Kappa Gamma, serving as Treasurer for many years. Pearl was also a dedicated member of Business and Professional Women, serving as Tennessee State President, 1972-73.

Pearl is preceded in death by her parents, Rev. Oscar and Minnie Drinnen, her husband and former Superintendent of Roane County Schools, Dr. Edward E. (Edd) Williams; her sister, Ruth Drinnen Swader and her husband, Roy Swader; her aunt, Lida Connatser; and Edd's brothers, Dr. Jim Williams and Dr. Jack Williams.

Survived by nieces Susan (Alan) Tatum of Oak Ridge, TN, and Ann (Richard)

Hortman of Lilburn, GA; great-nephews Austin Tatum of Denver, CO and Andrew (Taylor) Tatum of Knoxville, TN; sister-in-law Dr. Carolyn Williams Hartley of Sparta, NJ, and numerous other nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers: Alan Tatum, Austin Tatum, Andrew Tatum, Richard Hortman, Jim Lett, and Dr. Steve Smith.

Honorary pallbearer: Dr. Jackie Jackson

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 27 from 11am-1pm at Trenton Street Baptist Church, 519 Trenton Street, Harriman, TN, with a Celebration of Life following at 1pm. Following the Celebration, family and friends will gather for the burial at Roane Memorial Gardens, Rockwood, TN.

The family would like to express our deepest appreciation to the staff of The Groves at Oak Ridge who have cared for Pearl, taken the time to sit and talk with her, and loved on her for the past three and a half years. Thank you also to Juliana Schmitt of Amedisys Hospice who cared for her during the past three months.

Special thanks to her dear friend Dr. Jackie Jackson, his wife Barbara, and son Jay; to education colleague and friend, Jim Lett; to her lifelong friend and neighbor, Betty Robinette; and to her teaching friend and traveling companion, Carolyn Tilley.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trenton Street Baptist Church, Harriman, TN or The Amedisys Foundation at <https://www.amedisys.com/about/foundation/>

Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Williams Family.

Cemetery Details

Roane Memorial Gardens

1400 N Gateway Ave
Rockwood, TN 37854

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 27. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Trenton St Baptist Church
519 Trenton St
Harriman, TN 37748

Funeral Service

APR 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Trenton St Baptist Church
519 Trenton St
Harriman, TN 37748

Tribute Wall

JT

“*Mrs Williams was an excellent teacher; she was my teacher in 6th grade. I remember her as dignified and respectful but she could handle unexpected situations too.*

Our class ate lunch together in the cafeteria then would head back to the classroom, some leading the way while some were slower. In those days we could bring a can of soda in our lunch and a recurring prank had started within a group of classmates for someone to hurry back to class with their unopened soda, notice who was next behind them coming back and if they were a worthy target, quickly shake up their soda and wait out of sight near the doorway. As the intended target rounded from the hall through the class doorway that was when the soda would be aimed and top would be pulled.

This time it didn't go as planned when instead of the expected victim, Mrs Williams came hurrying in the room. She got a healthy blast of soda and the classmate was mortified. While dripping, she was calm and in control. Didn't miss a beat. I can't remember what punishment she handed out but from the look on his face, he likely never recovered!

She was one of my best teachers. May she rest in peace.

Judy Turner

Judy Turner - April 26, 2023 at 06:08 PM

 Bill
Patterson

“*A wonderful lady and dedicated educator. May she rest in peace.*

*Bill Patterson
Houston*

Bill Patterson - April 26, 2023 at 01:55 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Pearl Drinnen Williams.*



April 26, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ *Mrs. Williams took me under her wing when I came to Roane County in 1992. She took me to every interview and advised me on the best fit for me. She is the epitome of a dedicated educator. She holds a special place in my heart!*

RuthThompson - April 26, 2023 at 11:04 AM



“ *Fond remembrances of Aunt Pearl, from working on the fishery, to hunting trips, to watching the Apollo Moon Missions as a family gathering at Aunt Pearl and Uncle Ed's house, to Christmas gatherings, and that long road trip to Mississippi to deliver an order of Catfish to the home town of Jerry Clower comedian. Good times.*

Jack Williams, Jr. - April 25, 2023 at 12:22 PM



“ *Mrs. Williams was a dear lady, great teacher, and family friend. She and my mother, Lyda Jones, sang in the choir at TSBC. I was in her American History class as a senior at HHS when President Kennedy was assassinated. I got to see her at the SHHS reunion about 5-6 years ago, and she was still smiling and as pleasant as ever. She and her husband were two of the finest persons that Harriman ever produced. She will be missed greatly!*

mickey jones - April 25, 2023 at 11:50 AM

GK

“*Mrs. Williams will be missed. She was a neighbor who was always helpful and you could call on her at any time for anything. She was also my American History teacher in my senior year at HHS. My husband always took her paper to her each morning and mowed her yard. She left many great memories as an educator, neighbor and friend. Prayers for the family.*

Gladys Kelly

Gladys Kelly - April 25, 2023 at 09:41 AM