



Marie Zediker

May 14, 2015

Marie Surette Zediker, age 90, died peacefully on May 14, 2015, at her home in Water Valley, Mississippi, with her children at her side.

Marie was born in Yalobusha County on November 26 to Joe and Leona Surette. After attending school in the Campground community, she worked her way through college and received her B.A. in education from Athens State College in Athens, Alabama. At this time after WWII, teachers were in great demand in the western U.S., so immediately following her graduation, Marie showed the fierce independence and courage that would characterize the rest of her life and boarded a bus headed west to Colorado to teach in the ranching community of DeBeque (population ca. 250). She eventually settled in the small ranch town of Grand Valley, Colorado (now Parachute). where she met and married WWII vet and cattle rancher Lloyd Zediker. He preceded her in death in 1968. Marie embraced the western life style, but never lost her southern touch.

She spent her career as an educator, teaching high school business subjects, reading and English, and coaching the drama and award-winning FBLA teams. In addition, Marie taught business skills courses for Colorado Mountain College. She received her M.A. in Business Education from Western State College in 1968. A lifelong proponent of the importance of education, her skills as a teacher gave numerous students the knowledge and confidence to

succeed in life. She believed in her students and taught them to believe in themselves.

At the heart of Marie's life was her family. She returned to Mississippi to care for her elderly mother, then returned again to open "Nana Ree's day care" to take care of her two grandsons before they reached school age, and up to the end of her life, she was actively engaged with younger generations of the family advising them on everything from quilt patterns to grammar usage and rose gardening.

In addition to her husband, Marie was also preceded in death by all of her six brothers and sisters. She is survived by daughter Diane Zediker-Pastore (Victor), son Glen Zediker, grandsons Matthew and Charlie Zediker, sister-in-law Marvel Surette, and numerous generations of nieces and nephews.

A 33-year lymphoma survivor, Marie requested that donations in her memory be sent to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall of this website.

Tribute Wall

ND

“ I was truly saddened to hear of Mrs Zedikers passing. To the entire Zediker family I want to express my condolences. I was very fortunate to know her and her family and I was very lucky to have her as a teacher. I came to realize later in my life just how fortunate I was to call her and talk to her and tell her this. When I look back at all of my teachers, I consider her to be at the top of my list, with just a few others. What a gift this lady had in knowing how to treat and control "rowdy" and sometimes out of control teenagers, and still get them to learn and like what she was teaching. My Dad had me somewhat scared of her prior to me having her as a teacher. I remember him telling me that if I didn't behave in her class she would likely give me what was known as the "Marie Zediker Twist". When i asked what that was, he said that she would probably grab my ear and give it the "Twist". Of course this never happened but I wasn't going to chance it. She was a great person and the world is always a little worse off whenever we lose beautiful people. Thank You Mrs Zediker for being a wonderful role model to so many. Nate Dutton

Nate Dutton - June 08, 2015 at 10:15 PM

T(

“ Mrs. Zediker was a real Southern lady, but beyond that she was the best teacher I ever had. The classes she taught became my favorite ones and I looked forward to being there every day. In those days we didn't have school counsellors, but Mrs. Zediker was always interested in our plans for the future and so encouraging to us, being in tune with what we were doing. My senior class almost missed filling out college applications in time if she hadn't brought it to our attention. She was a success as a fellow human, a wife, a mother, and a teacher, etc. She guided her own children to success even though she had a career.

I feel your loss, Diane and Glen and children. I lost my own mother just a few weeks before your mom's passing. It's a tough thing to deal with. My parents always spoke so highly of Marie. She certainly left her mark in the world in the best way possible.

Terry (Dutton) - June 08, 2015 at 05:39 PM

JB

“ I shall always remember Mrs. Zediker as a substitute teacher at Davidson Elementary school when I was teaching. She had a funny personality! She and I pulled playground duty together several times. One day she said to me" Mrs Bugress I asked Mr. Ford to remove my name from the substitute list because I am not use to teaching children of this caliber. I thought I want to get back in the classroom but feel that I made a mistake. I enjoyed talking to her and was sad to see she has passed. I would often ask Glen about her when he would come in the Post Office. She was a lovely person

Joyce Judson

Joyce Burgess-Judson - May 27, 2015 at 03:11 PM

VG

“ My name is Vanesa Gooch. She hired me to take her to Memphis to the doctor and to pick up her daughter at the airport. She was a very sweet Lady and when ever I saw her she always remembered me and my son. I am sorry for your lost and my condolences to you and your family.

Vanesa Gooch - May 16, 2015 at 11:56 PM

MR

“ To Marie"s family. What a wonderful mother and friend we all had in Marie. She was one of a kind. She had a strong will and was know for doing things her way. her love for her children and grands was profound.i always looked forward to our visits when she cane to my hair salon to have her hair done. Even in her later days of failing health he always had that sweet smile. she is now with our lord and what a comfort that is. we all will think of the wonderful times we all shared . Glen and Diane the two of you gave your mother such wonderful love and care.. I A=am sure mother is looking down saying MY CHILDREN A JOB WELL DONE. You are in my thoughts and prays. with much love Mike Redwine

mike redwine - May 15, 2015 at 08:32 PM