



Ms. Mary Frances (Sharpe) Murray

May 20, 1923 - January 1, 2020

Following 96 years of wonderful living, Ms. Mary Frances Sharpe Murray, mother of Peoria, IL resident, Angela Marc "Nickie" Roberson, peacefully passed away surrounded by her daughters in Peoria, IL on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at UnityPoint Proctor Hospital.

Mary Frances, middle child and elder daughter of John Van Buren Sharpe, Sr. and Lessie Irvin Sharpe was born on May 20, 1923 in Guilford County, NC. She and her siblings, John, Jr. "Van" and Doris "Baby" began schooling at a Lutheran pre-school in Greensboro, NC. After completing seventh grade at Grace Lutheran, Mary attended and graduated from Mary Potter High School, a Presbyterian Boarding School in Oxford, NC.

North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham; now, North Carolina Central University (NCCU) was the undergraduate college of choice for Mary Frances. Her major educational studies led to a Bachelor of Arts in English and History. Upon graduation, opportunities for work in education were readily available. Mary Frances' first jobs in education included working with returning veterans and teaching them basic skills in reading and math. Next, she joined two ladies at Rock Creek Elementary School teaching seventh and eighth graders English, Science, Language, History and Physical Education. She became an energetic leader whose interests extended to the total community not just the school.

She completed her Master's Degree at NCCU and finished additional post-graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After Rock

Creek, she went into the Central Office where she became an Itinerant Speech Therapist and Supervisor and Director of Educational Support Systems.

In 1980, Mary Frances retired from the Alamance-Burlington School System. She obtained her Funeral Director's License on December 2, 1983 and assumed the role of President and CEO of Sharpe Funeral Home, Inc. She was awarded the prestigious Kentucky Colonel designation and was known as the Honorable Mary Frances Sharpe Murray. In 2007, Mary Frances, desiring to be closer to her daughters, retired and sought the professionalism and courtesy of Tracey W. Alston, Licensed Funeral Director, to continue the legacy and tradition of Sharpe Funeral Home, Inc.

At her foundation was a commitment to her family, friends, students and her Roman Catholic faith. As a member of Blessed Sacrament Church, she was a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Home School Association Officer, and Parish Council Member. Genuine caring, compassion and quality service have always been the hallmarks of the Sharpe Family and Sharpe Funeral Home, Inc. Serving on Church and Civic committees, Mary Frances Murray has proven that her life was more than her resume and her experiences. As a woman of substance and good will, she has truly been a role model and inspiration to all.

Mary Frances leaves loving and lasting memories to her devoted daughters, Angela Marc "Nickie" Murray Roberson and Vida Sharpe Murray; nephew, Steve Bradshaw; niece, Billie Gray Porter; the Sharpe Funeral Home, Inc., Management and Staff; many students; and dear friends.

She now joins her parents; John VanBuren Sharpe, Sr. and Lessie Irvin Sharpe; siblings; John VanBuren Sharpe, Jr. and Doris Sharpe Gray; and son-in-law, Glenn Roberson.

Funeral Mass will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, January 9, 2020 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Graham, NC with a visitation prior beginning at 11:30 AM. Mary Frances will be laid to rest at Northlawn Cemetery, Burlington, NC.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with the Peoria, IL arrangements. Online condolences may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

Sharpe Funeral Home has been entrusted with the Burlington, NC arrangements. Online condolences may also be made at SharpeFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Northlawn Cemetery

333 East Summit Avenue
Burlington, NC 27215

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Sharpe Funeral Home, Inc.
520 Rosenwald Street
Burlington, NC 27217
(336) 228-8364
<http://sharpefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
1620 Hanford Rd.
Graham, NC 27253
(336) 226-8796
<http://cc.blessedsacramentnc.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Mary Frances (Sharpe) Murray*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Ms. Mary Frances (Sharpe) Murray*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Annette Lucy sent a virtual gift in memory of
Ms. Mary Frances (Sharpe) Murray*



Annette Lucy - January 14, 2020 at 10:54 PM

RD

“ Nickie and Vida,
I was saddened to hear of Ms. Mary Frances'
passing. Ms. Mary Frances was truly an
inspiration, as well as a role model to me
while I served at Sharpe Funeral Home. It
was truly an honor to work under her. Her funeral home ethics,
morals, and values stay with me constantly. Her independence and
her ability to service the community gave me the motivation to
pursue my own business. I will never ever forget her for that. My
hope for both of you is that all your wonderful memories of your
mother will come to overshadow the sadness of your loss, and I
know the goodness of her soul is shining on you right now



Renee M Donnell.

Renee M Donnell - January 07, 2020 at 02:16 AM

EC

“ Evelyn Tate Clayton lit a candle in memory of
Ms. Mary Frances (Sharpe) Murray



evelyn tate clayton - January 06, 2020 at 02:49 PM