

## Mary Alice Rees Parmley 1926-2020

**Mary Alice Rees Parmley was a disciple for Christ.** She joined the Lord on June 14, 2020 in Dallas, Texas. She lived her motto: "I Love Everyone and Never, Ever Give Up" until she knew her teaching days on earth were complete.

Mary Alice will always be our partner and giver of joy and love in our lives, and we know with her friends too. We welcome you to join us in a celebration of her life. **We will celebrate the love she showed to everyone with an online memorial service on Saturday, July 25, 2020. People may go to the link at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church at [www.llumc.org/maryalice](http://www.llumc.org/maryalice). Live streaming will begin at 10:30 a.m. CST with music, songs and stories.**

Mary Alice was born in the heart of the Flint Hills of Kansas. She and her identical twin, Anna Belle, were born in a blizzard on January 21, 1926 in Marion, Kansas. She and Anna Belle grew up known as the "Rees Twins" who could dance, sing, play music, and recite. She played several instruments (piano, piccolo, and violin). She played the piccolo in the Marion High School Band. She and Anna Belle grew up among kind and thoughtful family, neighbors, and friends. Living in a small town was always a joy to them. They enjoyed remembrances of their hometown and came home often.

She graduated from Marion High School in 1943. She earned a Bachelor in Education from Emporia State College in 1947 and a Master in Education from Washburn University in 1969.

She married her darling, Roland Clayton Parmley, on June 19, 1949 in Marion. They met in Hutchinson, Kansas, during her first year of teaching. They were partners in all aspects of life. Their love was always a reminder of the goodness and joy of married life, community giving, and the Christian promises from doing God's work on earth. Mary Alice and Roland were founding members of Crestview United Methodist Church in Topeka.

Mary Alice taught 45 years in Kansas. In the fall of 1966 she returned to teaching at McClure Elementary and remained for 25 happy, rewarding years. She found great satisfaction in helping a goodly number of young student teachers beginning promising careers in her classroom. Further in her career, she was awarded "Teacher of the Year" for 1988 by the Topeka Public Schools and her peers. The honor was for her devotion and dedication to the students in Topeka and her commitment to quality teaching.

Her family shared the knowledge of looking about to see the great beauty in life. They helped her focus on what was going on around her...a sunset, a beautiful rain in summer, the colors in a garden, snowstorms in winter, drives in the country, and visiting with friends. Perhaps that is why she found great happiness in each new day.

Teaching gave her additional opportunities for inspiration. Since many family members were teachers, the desire to inspire and help others came naturally. She always said, "There was never a doubt of knowing what I wanted to do with my life." Children remained special to her then and forever.

Mary Alice was the writer and her twin, Anna Belle, was the artist. Mary Alice wrote from her love of giving to others and the joy of teaching. Writing stories was a wonderful way of remaining in touch with the world around her. Expressing feelings and thoughts helped her appreciate the past and gave her the courage to meet the future.

She focused her writing on nature's beauty and the Christian promises realized from doing God's work. Her students and her daughter, Mary Ann, inspired her writing and her deep interest to support children's education and social programs. After her retirement, Mary Alice became a published poet and children's book author. **Enjoy Mrs. Parmley Books at [www.mrsparmley.com](http://www.mrsparmley.com).**

She enjoyed being a storyteller and a reading specialist. She served on many state and local education committees, officer for Alpha Delta Kappa, Brownie and Girl Scout leader, volunteer to conserve the beauty and integrity of the Kansas Flint Hills, United Methodist Women member, and gave community talks about the importance of nature in one's life.

She found great happiness in being alive each day of her life and having a contributing part in the lives of others. Her family and friends will miss her spirit of love and joy, her cooking, and get-togethers at her home, along with the welcoming smile she shined on everyone she met.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Roland Clayton Parmley (2004) and her five siblings: Fred, Dick, and Leta Rees (who became like a mother to the twins when her mother died in 1940); and Anna Belle Baker, her beloved twin (2007).

She is survived by her loving daughter and devoted son-in-law (Mary Ann and David Siller) of Dallas, Texas. They were bright lights in her life. The three together with Roland held a special bond that is everlasting.

Mary Alice believed every child was a unique individual worthy of her respect and love. Memorial contributions may be given to Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75220 or Crestview United Methodist Church, 2245 S.W. Eveningside Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66614 to support their children's programs.

We still have her childhood home in Marion as a retreat and place of respite. Interment of her ashes will be in Marion, Kansas, cemetery in September.

**People may reach us at 7129 Mason Dells Drive, Dallas, Texas 75230, [dmasiller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmasiller@sbcglobal.net) and 214-448-6068.**

