



Martha S. Parris

April 4, 1951 - December 3, 2022

Martha S. Parris

Pickens, South Carolina

Martha S. Parris of Pickens, SC, passed away in her home on December 3, 2022. She came to rest in the company of her family and her beloved cat. She is survived by her husband, Jackson Parris; her daughter, Keely Mabry (Billy); her best friend, Sherri Beyke; and her pets: Bizzi, Hamish, Ghillie, and Buttercup.

Martha was a graduate of Saint Angela's Academy in Aiken, South Carolina. She earned her B.A. in Modern Foreign Languages and her Master's in French Education from Furman University.

Martha loved adventure and traveled extensively solo as well as with family and friends. She also enthusiastically braved travel with her French students throughout her career as an educator.

Martha started her career in education teaching French at Westminster High School and moved to Walhalla High School where she spent almost 30 years encouraging and inspiring students to meet their full potential and become their best selves while also helping them expand their knowledge of the world by immersing them in the French culture and language through film, literature,

and food. She completed her career educating International Baccalaureate students at Southside High School and retired in 2012.

Martha actively participated as a board member for the Craig Memorial Cemetery and the Historic Old Pickens Presbyterian Church Foundation for many years. Upon retirement, Martha enjoyed spending her time as a volunteer with the Holly Springs Center, Hagood Mill, the Hagood Community Center, and the Pickens County Historical Society. She loved teaching Appalachian cooking at the YAMs camp in the summer. She found great joy while volunteering for the Upstate Quilt Heritage Trail, and her creativity is in many of the quilt squares found throughout Pickens County.

On most Wednesdays, the “Mayor” of the Jockey Lot could be found admiring and appreciating all the fascinating curiosities to be found and would write about her discoveries to the enjoyment of family and friends. Martha adored the spring, and she and Jack spent many days looking for wildflowers in the Nine Times Preserve.

Martha delighted in her home most of all – it was a place of grounding and peace. She could be found on the deck listening to the creek and taking in the beauty of it all.

From Martha to us all:

“So, in the end, remember always do your best; set and follow high standards; balance your heart and mind in making decisions; and make something amazing out of your life. Oh, and never stop learning.

I’ll leave you with this...Life is not forever, love is.”

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to:

Christ Central Mission Station – Joanna
c/o: Erica Goldsmith
11 Ghana Drive
Greenville, SC 29605
Ph. 864.386.5001
PayPal: <https://www.paypal.me/EMGDreamer1>

Memorial Services will be held at a later date.

Mountain View Funeral Home – Pickens Chapel is serving the Parris family.

Tribute Wall

DF

“*Mrs. Parris was my French teacher for 2 yrs. What a wonderful lady she was. She made such an impact on our young lives. Rest in paradise.*

Denise Farris - January 03, 2023 at 03:47 PM

DF

“*Denise Farris lit a candle in memory of Martha S. Parris*



Denise Farris - January 03, 2023 at 03:45 PM

 Rachel Smith

“*I just learned of and am so saddened by Martha’s passing. She was my French teacher all through my time at Walhalla High. She was such a huge inspiration in my love of language and culture. I saw her several times in the many years out of school and she always greeted me with a hug and her beautifully warm personality. I will miss you. Je t’aime, Madame Parris.*

Rachel Smith - December 18, 2022 at 09:02 PM

DO

“ I remember vividly the day Martha came over to the booth where I was sitting and reading a paperback novel in the Student Center at Furman University. She very politely asked if she could join me in reading and eating lunch. Every day I ordered the same thing, chopped salad with tomatoes, iceberg lettuce, cheese, ham, and thousand island dressing. Ice water to drink. Martha had a decadent looking pastry from some bakery in Downtown Greenville. I don't recall what she was reading, but I envied her that pastry. We were a bit competitive in terms of geeking out over cover art design and attempting to out intellectualize each other. During my time at Furman, we had many impassioned discussions. About a month later I met Jackson Parris, who had a circle of male compadres with whom he took great delight in the music & hippie delights of artists like the Mothers of Invention.

Martha was truly a force to be reckoned with. I think of her every day. I am awed by the love and partnership in marriage she shared with Jack. I grieve for him. Peace and love to Jack and his niece Keely. Martha is with the infinite energy of the stars and the earth that sustains all of us. Rest well, sweet lady.

Doireann Odraeda - December 17, 2022 at 04:57 PM

PB

“ Martha was such a cheerful, sweet lady. Our lives connected through YAM Camp and Holly Springs Center. I knew her as one of the “Quilt Trail Ladies” at the Holly Springs Center. I would step in to enjoy their company and to admire their latest quilt trail project. I enjoyed looking at their projects so much that sometimes I would just step inside to admire their work even when they weren’t there. I will never forget her showing the YAM campers how to make fried apple pies and then letting them sample them - Again, with such cheerfulness. She was a pleasure to know, and I will always feel my world is diminished in that Martha is no longer with us. She was a gem! May God comfort her family in the loss of such a great lady.

Pauline Blackston - December 17, 2022 at 10:16 AM

CJ

“ Martha & I had been friends for over 55 years going back to our high school years in Aiken SC. She may have been the brightest, most intellectually stimulating woman I have ever known. It was her innate intelligence that challenged me to be the best student I could be back then.

To say that I am heartbroken is not doing justice to the role her friendship played in my life.

Jack, I always admired the model of marriage that you two projected. And I glad that you became my friend over the years as well.

May God bless you & comfort you.

Calvin Johnson
Tucker, Georgia

Calvin D. Johnson - December 12, 2022 at 03:17 PM

MN

“ Our deepest condolences and sincere prayers for Mr. Parris and the family and friends of Mrs. Parris. Even though many years have passed I remember her teaching me French and psychology at Westminster High School. She was a disciplined and demanding but fun and caring teacher who showed commitment and passion for her profession. She was one of my favorite educators. God bless you all.

Mark & Natalie Nelson
Westminster, S.C.

Mark Nelson - December 07, 2022 at 07:51 AM

TP

“ If I start at the beginning of my memories of Martha, I have to go back forty-two years. My family were the “interlopers” who dared to build a house on the same driveway as Martha and Jack. We could not have picked a better neighborhood anywhere in the world. Who knew such intellectual and educated people lived so far back in the sticks? We shared music and movies, culture and cuisine, family and fellowship for so many years. Martha didn’t exactly intimidate me, but she did somehow make me want to sit up straighter, speak more eloquently, and live up to a greater version of myself. Most of all, Martha taught me that you don’t have to give birth or even be a blood relative to consider someone family. She will always be my “cool aunt”, neighbor, mentor, friend. Love to Jack and Keely, and all the fur babies.

Tara Porter - December 06, 2022 at 11:17 PM

GT

“ Mrs Paris was my French teacher at Westminster High School. I absolutely loved her class and the French language. She was so kind and such a great teacher to so many.



Ginger Thomas - December 06, 2022 at 10:01 PM

RE

“ Jack, Sorry for your loss.
Robbie and Robin Eades



Robbie D Eades - December 06, 2022 at 04:36 PM

DC

“ Jack, that is a great picture of Martha. Although she is no longer with you, you have her memories to hold and the peace in knowing that she is no longer ill or suffering. I have been thinking of both of you over the last several months and will continue to ask God's blessing upon you as you travel this path of life. Don



Don Craig - December 06, 2022 at 01:56 PM

NH

“ During my first year at Walhalla High, I was paired with Martha as prom coordinators. Needless to say, Martha was a joy to work with. From that point on, I remember Martha as friend and colleague.

Nancy A Harper - December 06, 2022 at 10:13 AM

HW

“ *Martha was such a unique and special person. I was so intimidated by her when I started teaching at WHS. She was a strong, outspoken woman but I soon realized she was also loving and kind. She quickly became one of my school buddies. Few will know but we will always remember our BMW trips to the mountains.* ”

Harriett Wilson - December 06, 2022 at 10:00 AM

LP

“ *Lisa Peden lit a candle in memory of Martha S. Parris* ”



Lisa Peden - December 06, 2022 at 09:51 AM

KM

“ *Martha was a wonderful teacher and colleague. She taught my son and was my daughter's homeroom teacher, also. She will forever be a sweet memory of a true and dear WHS friend.* ”

Kay Moxley - December 06, 2022 at 09:38 AM

BF

“ *Barry Fitzgerald lit a candle in memory of Martha S. Parris* ”



Barry Fitzgerald - December 06, 2022 at 08:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Martha S. Parris.*



December 06, 2022 at 06:34 AM



“ *Becky Johnson lit a candle in memory of Martha S. Parris*



Becky Johnson - December 05, 2022 at 10:20 PM