



Carol Scott

August 21, 1936 - September 23, 2020

Carol Gwaltney Scott passed away in her home In Hazlehurst, MS on September 23rd, 2020 after a series of unfortunate setbacks allowed Leukemia to take hold and end a battle with cancer she had held off for many years.

Carol was born August 21st, 1936 in McKenzie TN to Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell. She was the eldest of three girls: Carol, Alice, and little sister Jeanne. Their father, Dr. Caldwell was the town dentist, her mother taught at the local school, and there were many other Aunts and Uncles who kept a watchful eye over Carol, who enjoyed her role as prankster and cut-up among her friends. It was the close-knit town she was raised in that helped to instill in Carol the strong value of community service and the importance of looking after those who are less fortunate. Over the course of her life, Carol humbly reached out to help both people and animals she recognized needed her attention. Whether it was helping a student who was in trouble, providing clothes and toys for a family who would not otherwise have them, taking on the care of an elderly person without family, or stepping in to help nurture any one of the many animals who found their way to Carols backyard! There was always enough time and enough energy for her to tend generously to all who needed her.

After High School, Carol married her high school sweetheart, Jimmy

Gwaltney. They moved to Dallas, Texas where she eventually finished her degree at SMU and became a teacher. While Jim was finishing his Theology degree, they began a family and had three daughters, Leslee, Lisa and Lynda Lee; one each year, three years in a row! As a young mother, teacher and spouse to a minister beginning a new Methodist Church, Carol demonstrated the strength and tireless energy that defined her during the course of her whole life. She told stories about having three girls under the age of three at the same time, with no dishwasher, no washing machine, no disposable diapers, and yet she managed to keep up her studies toward her teaching degree, serve in the role as senior ministers' spouse, and sing in the church choir. "Super woman" was a banner she carried proudly, and until her last days, she lived up to that title.

Carol's teaching career spanned over thirty years as the Honors English teacher at Richardson High School in Richardson, Texas. Carol had a true passion for teaching and was motivated by both the bond she developed with many of her students as well as the important life lessons she felt she was imparting through the study of many of the great works of literature. Since her retirement, Carol kept in touch with many of her former students, and the books she taught from remained within easy reach; They are old and tattered but are filled with notes and quotes that served as guideposts throughout her life.

When Carol moved to Hazlehurst in the late 1980's, she very quickly felt at home, as so many of you welcomed her with open arms into a community filled with energy for life and support for one another. She developed great friendships from her involvement in the church, her love of gardening, her passion for tennis, and her affection for animals, one and all. Hazlehurst and its people gave Carol purpose and deep human connection that filled her with gratitude and kept her strong. While her daughters wished she would return to Dallas to be closer to family, Carol had developed deep roots here, and this

had become her home.

At eighty-four years old, Carol still felt she had so much more to do, and no one was more surprised than her to find that her body was failing when she had so much energy for life left in her heart. Some of that spark came from the strong, self-willed person Carol was born to be, and much of it was due to the love and support she received from being a member of this special town of Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Bless Carol's life and Bless you all!

The family will hold a private service on October 10th at 11:00 AM. The service will be live streamed on the Hazlehurst United Methodist Facebook page, and we invite Carol's friends and neighbors to join the service online. While it would have been our preference to include everyone in person, we want to celebrate Carol's life in a safe and responsible way.

Carol is preceded in death by her sister Alice and her dear daughter Lisa, who left us in April. She is survived by her sister Jeanne Sigrist and husband Carl, her daughter Leslee Light and husband Bill, daughter Lynda Lee Butcher and husband Dan; grandchildren Elizabeth Broome and husband Lee, Callie Butcher and spouse Ashton, and William Butcher; great grandchildren Mason and Zoey Broome and Everett and Rhys Butcher.

If you would like to make a donation in honor of Carol's life, please consider a donation to the ASPCA, as Carol belonged to numerous charitable organizations benefiting animals and would be honored for contributions to go toward furthering their care.

Cemetery Details

Hazlehurst Cemetery

Sinclare St.
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Tribute Wall

JR

“*Mrs. Gwaltney was an extraordinary teacher. I was fortunate to be her student in 1986-1987 at Richardson High School. She challenged me, made me a better writer, and made me a more critical thinker overall. Saddened to read of her passing, but grateful that she was able to continue blessing so many others in her later years.*

James Rushing - November 17, 2025 at 03:41 PM



“*Carol Scott*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM

JP

“*Grateful to have had her as an Honors English teacher at RHS. My memories of Walden and the Scarlet Letter are vivid thanks to her gentle pushing. I can still see her leaning on the tall wooden lectern prodding us to think more about the deeper meaning of these American authors and their --at that time, rather tedious-- stories. She prevailed. I recall them well.*

My condolences to the family and continued gratitude for her teaching,

Justine Putnam RHS '83, fifth period

Justine Putnam - March 04, 2021 at 02:07 PM

SJ

“ I had the pleasure of not only being a student in Carol’s Honors English at RHS, but also to have known her outside the classroom. As a teacher she was motivating, inspiring, and always in total command of her classroom. I remember looking forward to her handwritten remarks in the margins of graded papers, for from Ms. Gwaltney (as I knew her) was high praise indeed! I still treasure my dog-eared copy of *Walden* from her class. I also worked after school with Carol at a small boutique where she recommended me for a job. I knew her to be vibrant and witty, a sparkling personality who drew people in. My heart goes out to Carol’s extended family who have lost two amazing women this year. I consider myself lucky and blessed to have known them both.

Sara Jamison - October 30, 2020 at 02:48 PM

AK

“ So many memories of her honors English class from the days before someone renamed it “Language Arts”. I remember her deep Southern accent. I remember someone writing on the chalkboard (Do they still have those? 🤔) when she had left the room for a few minutes how things sounded literally when she said them — and how much she laughed WITH us about them when she came back. The one I still remember: “Your rioting is very POWER.” (“Your writing is very poor.”). I remember suffering through *The Scarlet Letter* and *Walden* - still some of the most ponderous reading I have ever had to do! (Thoreau had so many great thoughts, but why couldn’t he have said them more succinctly?) She was demanding but fair. A great teacher. I will miss her being a part of our world.

Alan Kaye. RHS ‘83

Alan Kaye - October 11, 2020 at 02:57 PM

JR

“ When I moved back to my home state of Texas in 1986 as a Junior in High School, returning from having lived in Tennessee for over a decade, I recall feeling no small amount of joy at finding myself in a classroom taught by a beautiful southern lady with perfect diction and an obvious passion for making every student perform at their highest level.

When asked over the years who my favorite High School teacher was, it was her name, voice, and face that came first, and always, to mind.

She was a bright, if too brief spark in my life, which has benefited greatly from it.

May she Rest In Peace; and may God bless those whom she loved, I'm sure, as joyfully as she taught.

James Rushing
RHS - Class of '88

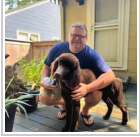
James Rushing - October 11, 2020 at 08:09 AM

BP

“ What a great English teacher and educator she was. I still remember reading the many novels she assigned and how She had us expand our vocabulary. Rest in peace this is Gene from grateful student

Brian Peterson
RHS. '83 graduate

Brian Peterson - October 11, 2020 at 02:43 AM



“ Carol was a faithful member of Hazlehurst United Methodist Church and a good friend of mine. Carol and I, along with many others enjoyed decorating the church for Christmas every year. I also worked with her for several years on the heart affair event. You never had to wonder where you stood with Carol, she spoke her mind. I loved that about her. My deepest sympathies and prayers go out to her family during this time. She will be missed in Hazlehurst and at Hazlehurst UMC.

Wayne Cameron - October 01, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ Carol was a wonderful floral and decor designer during many years of "The Heart Affair "in copiah County . Fond memories of her. Prayers for her family

Paul cartwright - September 30, 2020 at 10:58 PM



“ John 14.....Sharing Your LossPrayers With Ya'll

Sandra Cliburn - September 25, 2020 at 07:54 PM



“ Sandra Cliburn lit a candle in memory of Carol Scott



Sandra Cliburn - September 25, 2020 at 07:53 PM