



Daphne Dabney Terrill

September 24, 1948 - December 24, 2025

As Greek mythology tells it, the nymph Daphne pleaded with her father to bless her with deliverance from the relentless pursuit of Apollo. Thus, she was transformed in to a laurel tree- the Greek origin of “Daphne”- symbolizing achievement, victory, and eternal life. On December 24, 2025, per her namesake, Daphne Dabney Terrill was transformed in to a heavenly laurel tree and granted deliverance from the figurative Apollo that consumed her earthly being.

Born in Gulfport, MS as the youngest of three children, to the late James Conway Dabney and the late Agnes Barnett Dabney, Daphne epitomized her mythological lore. Early on in life she discovered her insatiable passion for dance, particularly ballet, and she encompassed the most beautiful parts of her Southern heritage- displaying grace, poise, vitality, etiquette, charisma, and love. Even in her later days, you could catch her walking from room to room with a phone book on her head to keep her posture correct!

Daphne went on to thrive at Ole Miss, and even held the office as Kappa Kappa Gamma social chair. After two years, and despite her dedication to all things Kappa and Ole Miss, she transferred to Memphis State in order to pursue her desired major. As fate would have it, that move led her to finding her Apollo antithesis. On August 16, 1969, back in Gulfport and just one day before Category 5 Hurricane Camille devastated the Mississippi coastline, she

married her forever flyboy, USAF LT Donald Robert Terrill. From that day forward, together they were their own natural force.

Eventually, Daphne managed to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Health Information Sciences, and later went on to earn her Master's Degree, all while being a devoted military spouse, and mother. While frequent relocation became routine, in a lifestyle that has too often broken even the best, she embraced the adventures of wherever they landed, and always found her purpose in that particular space. She leaves behind an endless legacy, to include (but most definitely not limited to) teaching English to Farsi speaking women in Iran, participating as a member of a USO dance troop in the Phillipines, volunteering as team mom for her children's numerous activities, and being THE social butterfly at any event. The grass never stood a chance at growing under her feet.

While she always prioritized everyone over herself, she managed to curate a meaningful and successful career in the field of Medical Records Administration. She dedicated decades of her story to Shriner's Children's Hospital in Tampa, FL- where she quickly advanced in to the role of Medical Records Director, all while making it a mandatory practice to spend nearly every Friday with her mother. From that accomplishment, she went on to Healthcare First USA, where she was an advocate in healthcare awareness and education within the underprivileged communities of St. Louis. Outside of working hours, Daphne always found a way to continue with her love of dance- jazzercise, adult ballet and tap, ballroom dancing, line dancing; however, once she took a Zumba class, it was an instant addiction. Upon retirement, when she wasn't traveling the world, she earned her Zumba Instructor Certification, knowing that she had a mission to infect as many people as possible- and, it's safe to say she was virally successful-even conducting online classes during COVID, and seated classes during her illness.

While Daphne and Don initially retired up in the breathtaking mountains of Cashiers, NC- they recently found their way back to the South, settling in Crystal Springs, MS- spending her final days surrounded by close family, while deeply rooted in a past that she treasured. To know her, was to absolutely love her. She preferred hugs over handshakes, black licorice over red, malts over milkshakes, homemade costumes over store bought. She would never be caught without lipstick, sunglasses, hand cream, Altoids, Kleenex, and a few packets of Sweet N Low in her purse! She loved hard, unconditionally, and without abandon. She was also known to start many a line dance, literally anywhere she felt!

Beautifully, and peacefully, Daphne is survived by her husband, Donald Robert Terrill, of Crystal Springs, MS; her sister, Cynthia Dabney Stevens (sp. Jack) of Memphis, TN; her brother James Conway Dabney II, of Clearwater, FL; her son, Justin Alexander Terrill (sp. Kristin) of Sunset Hills, MO, grandsons Jackson and Cooper, granddaughter Katie Beth; her daughter Allison Dabney Terrill, of Oceanside, CA, grandson Tyler, granddaughter Abigail, and great grandson Kingston. Also, with boundless love, a myriad of family including her niece, nephews, cousins, and so many beyond- who, along with countless friends, completed her world.

May we all dance like no one is watching, knowing that Daphne will be leading the count in her forever after.

In lieu of flowers, at your will, please make a donation to The Shriner's organization @ loveshriners.org

The visitation and service will be held on 12/ 29 at 3:00 and 5:00 respectively- Stringer Funeral Home in Crystal Springs, MS

The burial service will be held on 12/30 at 1:00- Oxford Memorial Cemetery in Oxford, MS

Watch service here: <https://youtube.com/live/oOEX2r9WfbE?feature=share>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Stringer Family Funeral Home - Crystal Springs
PO Box 431
26141 Hwy 27
Crystal Springs, MS 39059
(601) 892-1521
stringerfuneral@bellsouth.net

Funeral Service

DEC **29**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Stringer Family Funeral Home - Crystal Springs
PO Box 431
26141 Hwy 27
Crystal Springs, MS 39059
(601) 892-1521
stringerfuneral@bellsouth.net

Graveside Service

DEC **30**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Oxford Memorial Cemetery
464 North 16th Street
Oxford, MS 38655

Tribute Wall

KA

“ Kathleen A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daphne Dabney Terrill.

Kathleen A. - February 24 at 12:04 PM

JS

“ Daphne was SPECIAL!! All it took was a few minutes around her to know that. She was light and laughter and joy. Dancing was her "specialty".....anywhere, any time. And that started young, as you will see. We met in third grade and took ballet lessons together. We both loved it!! She will be sorely missed by many 💔💔🙏🙏



Judy Coon Smith - January 02 at 05:32 AM

KM

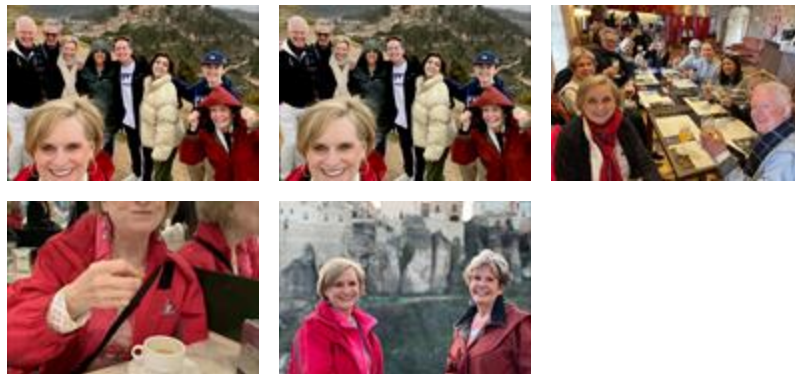
“ Us cousins wish you a rest well now. You'll be missed (circa May 2025 in Meridian, Mississippi)



Kimberly Miller - December 29, 2025 at 06:55 PM

SM

“ I’m at a loss for words about how much I love and will miss my sweetest Aunt Daphne.



Susannah Malek - December 29, 2025 at 04:00 PM

RL

“ A wonderful upbeat friend and Zumba teacher. You will be missed Robin Lurie



Robin Lurie - December 29, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daphne Dabney Terrill.



December 28, 2025 at 06:54 PM

FK

“ From Jean Kinda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daphne Dabney Terrill.

From Jean Kinda - December 28, 2025 at 06:54 PM

CJ

“ Cousin Jim purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Daphne Dabney Terrill.



Cousin Jim - December 28, 2025 at 05:04 PM

BW

“ Barbara W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daphne Dabney Terrill.

Barbara W. - December 28, 2025 at 02:02 PM

BC

“ Betty Toon and Frank Collins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Daphne Dabney Terrill.



Betty Toon and Frank Collins - December 27, 2025 at 10:40 PM

BC

“ Betty Toon and Frank Collins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daphne Dabney Terrill.

Betty Toon and Frank Collins - December 27, 2025 at 10:40 PM

LF

“ Lenny & Melanie Fahrner purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Daphne Dabney Terrill.



Lenny & Melanie Fahrner - December 27, 2025 at 08:57 PM

MF

“ Daphne & I met working at HealthCare USA over 23 years ago. We became fast friends. I could always count on her and our antics to give me a good belly laugh and lots of smiles. We became good friends and have shared many of happy memories since. Daphne was one of the most sincere and authentic people I have met with a love of life like no one I've ever known. She leaves a gaping hole in my heart and I know everyone else who knew her feels the same. My heart goes out to Don, Justin, Alison and their families. I hope you take comfort in knowing she's in heaven making it an even happier place.

Melanie Fahrner - December 27, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ I first met Don and Daphne as new neighbors in our Sapphire, NC neighborhood. We soon became great friends (one of the true friends I have had in my entire life) as her personality was just so genuine. Her love of life was contagious. We enjoyed going to local nurseries to buy flowers and plants to enhance our yards. I hope I can honor her memory by having a small fraction of the love of life she had and passed on! Ted and I send our love and prayers to Don, Justin, Allison, their families and all her great Mississippi family who have been her rock since her diagnosis last year. We purchased "a grove of trees" to be planted in her memory as I felt this is what she would have been pleased with.

Marcia Fortune - December 27, 2025 at 04:03 PM

MF

“ Marcia F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daphne Dabney Terrill.

Marcia F. - December 27, 2025 at 12:15 PM

HH

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Daphne (my niece Abby's grandmother). We so enjoyed visiting with her at Kingston's baby dedication two years ago. Please know how sorry we are that she has passed. Sending love and prayers to her family.

Heather Henry - December 27, 2025 at 11:26 AM

LG

“ Daphne was a true Light in this world. She was a Fireball which I told her on the way home from Zumba every time, as we rode together. She was The Nicest Person & Most Genuine that I have ever met in my entire life. She was sooo fun, full of life, & made us laugh all the time. When I rode in her convertible in the cashiers

Lisa Guttormsson - December 27, 2025 at 09:09 AM

LG

Lisa con't - Xmas parade a few years ago she wanted me to really throw that candy! And showed me how to do it! I just didn't want to hit anyone with the candy! She had us dancing at Ingles grocery store too! And dancing in the Xmas parade that next year! She was truly a force of nature, a wonderful wonderful person! She was amazing!! A true Angel here on Earth!!!

Lisa Guttormsson - December 27, 2025 at 09:12 AM

GP

“ Daphne brought so much joy to my life in such a short period of time. Her smile and her positive energy captivated all of us at Zumba class. God bless all of you.
Gayle Pennock

Gayle Pennock - December 27, 2025 at 12:30 AM

JM

“ Jennifer M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daphne Dabney Terrill.

Jennifer M. - December 26, 2025 at 09:20 PM