



Sarah Clayton Duke

August 16, 1917 - November 10, 2010

Sarah Clayton Duke, formerly of Sulphur, was born August 16, 1917 in Jefferson City, Tennessee, to Joseph Buren Clayton and Lillian May Putnam Clayton. She passed away in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, on November 10, 2010. She moved with her family to Durant, Oklahoma in 1923, and was a proud Oklahoma resident for the next 87 years. She was married to George W. Duke on June 1, 1938 in Durant, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death in 1991 by her husband of 53 years.

Mrs. Duke graduated as salutatorian from Russell High School in Durant. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southeastern State College and a Master of Arts from Oklahoma University. Mrs. Duke was a mathematics teacher from 1936 through 1971. In 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Duke moved to Sulphur for an 18 month assignment with the Veterans Administration. They liked the people and the area, and Mrs. Duke stayed on in Sulphur for 58 years. From 1948 through 1971 she taught at Sulphur High School, where her husband was principal. During her teaching career, Mrs. Duke received many awards and participated in numerous professional associations. Many of her students stayed in touch with her the rest of her life, sharing remembrances of the wonderful education they had received from her. Mr. and Mrs. Duke endowed a scholarship that was given for many years to an outstanding graduate of Sulphur High School.

Following retirement from teaching, Mrs. Duke remained in Sulphur until moving to Oklahoma City in 2004. In December, 2008, she moved to Pauls Valley.

Mrs. Duke is survived by a sister, Mrs. Lilyan Clayton Saunders of Falmouth, Massachusetts, and numerous nieces and nephews. A brother, William Joseph Clayton of Fairport, New York, passed away in 2009.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the charity of your choice.

Services: A graveside service will be held at 11:00AM Wednesday November 17 at Oakland Cemetery in Madill, Oklahoma, with Rev. Rick Trobaugh officiating.

Tribute Wall



“ Sarah Clayton Duke

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *##imported-begin##Don & Nancy Dyer##imported-end##*

November 13, 2010 at 02:39 PM



“ *Mrs Duke and my family go back to when I was born (1947) and my parents (Robert and Yvonne Gowan) lived in Gill Apts with me as a new baby. Mr and Mrs Duke lived at the same apts, and when Mrs Duke held me, I burped down her back. I had her for math for 4 yrs at SHS (1961-1965), and she was my favorite teacher. Through her teaching and influence, I won two awards in math at the Interscholastic Meet in Ada and got to attend OU the summer of 1964 at the special Math and Science Institute for high school students. She was a wonderful teacher, and I am indebted to her for my success post-high school.*

Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with your family in your loss, which is a deep one for former students at SHS.

Yvonne and Bobbye Gowan##imported-begin##Yvonne and Bobbye Gowan##imported-end##

November 13, 2010 at 12:21 PM



“ Mrs. Duke was not only my teacher but she was the PEP Club Sponsor when I was a cheerleader. She tried very hard to be strict but she had a fun side as well. She set high standards for everything she did.##imported-begin##Charlene Gilliam##imported-end##

November 13, 2010 at 11:40 AM



“ ##imported-begin##Nick and Teresa Schwake##imported-end##

November 13, 2010 at 09:46 AM