



Sylvia "Jean" Davis

July 19, 1931 - January 13, 2013

Jean M. Davis

ADRIAN - Sylvia Jean Mercer Davis, 81, of Adrian passed away after recent unexpected events on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at Hospice of Lenawee. Jean was born on July 19, 1931 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. She was the youngest child of Galen and Marion (Hiles) Mercer. She married Ralph Ernest Davis on August 28, 1954. Ralph preceded her in death on December 27, 2012.

Jean graduated from Bowling Green State University with a teaching degree in health and physical education. She was active in her sorority and also coached the BGSU synchronized swimming team. Jean graduated early from college and started her teaching career at twenty-one years of age. She taught in the Adrian Public Schools system for over thirty years. Jean was the varsity swimming coach and the director of the Doll-fins synchronized swimming team, which staged an annual theatrical performance. Jean also earned a Masters degree from the University of Michigan and taught at Adrian College and was director of the Adrian Nursery School.

Jean was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and served as a youth leader. She was an active member of the Michigan Education Association and served on numerous committees and service projects. She

was a long time supporter of the Adrian Evening Lions Club and the Lenawee County Mounted Division.

Jean was very well known for her fantastic sense of humor. She had a knack for the one liner and was uproariously funny and intelligent. She enjoyed the pursuit of knowledge, in particular medicine, and was always a wealth of information. Jean spent her entire life helping people. She would offer assistance to any one in need and was always the first to volunteer. She counts a plethora of former students as dear friends who have credited her with turning their lives around with her attention, kindness and consideration. She was a devoted and loving grandmother who volunteered her time and expertise in the classroom after retiring from teaching. She loved attending every school and sporting event she could of her grandchildren. She enjoyed wintering in Phoenix, Arizona, spending time at her lake cottage and gardening. She was a delight to be around with her quick wit and positive attitude and was a warm, gracious and loving person.

Jean is survived by her children, Allen Davis of Tipton and Gayle (Sam) Mitchell of Adrian; four grandchildren, Tory and Trey Mitchell and Zackary and Ashley Davis; a brother, Jackson Reed (Judy) Mercer of Bowling Green, Ohio and a nephew, Todd (Mia) Mercer and their children, Jackson, Olivia and Max Mercer who live in Europe.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church of Adrian with Reverend James Splitt and Reverend Linda Farley officiating. A luncheon at the church will follow the service. Contributions can be directed to the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home where online condolences are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
156 E. Maumee Street
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Sylvia "Jean" Davis*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *God Bless you, Aunt Jean. Rest In Peace.*

Todd

Todd Mercer - March 05, 2013 at 10:59 AM



“ *Ah Mrs. Davis - I got my phys ed degree because of your influence. I went to Bowling Green State University as your urgings - coming under the influence of "Eli" Whitney, Iris Andrews and Miss Ludtke. Graduated with honors and returned to your office for six years. While I never knew Ralph that well - I certainly knew you. Thank you for being the first strong influence on my life.*

*Alyce Mott
New York City*

Alyce Mott - January 28, 2013 at 01:21 PM



“ *I remember being on the first girls swim team at Adrian High School. We were a brave bunch, and Coach Davis was the heart and soul of the team. Without her warmth and easy-going nature, the next three years wouldn't have been nearly as much fun, or as rewarding. God bless you and your family at this time - Julie Clemes*

Julie Clemes - January 18, 2013 at 11:38 AM

JR

“ Thanks Coach Davis! My time at Adrian High School would have looked much different had she not encouraged me Doll-Fins and Swim Team. Allen and Gayle - my prayers are with you and your families - Jackie Lemon Reynolds AHS 1975-1979

Jacqueline S Reynolds - January 16, 2013 at 06:31 PM

DP

“ Debby Pellowe lit a candle in memory of Sylvia "Jean" Davis



Debby Pellowe - January 16, 2013 at 05:15 PM

DP

What a great couple who were able to spend their lifetime together! Plus all of the community, education and church dedicated work! I loved Jean as a gym teacher. I never had Ralph while in school. Jean had a "pick on Debby Day" everytime we had class. I don't remember how it started, but she still greeted me with it 47 years later. They certainly left a beautiful leagacy with such a big family! I hope great memories will always help heal the sadness.
Debby Pellowe

Debby Pellowe - January 16, 2013 at 05:21 PM

JW

“ The members of Lenawee Cuntly Retired School Personel express their sympathy to the family of Jean M. Davis upon the death of their Mother and Grandmother. Your Mother not only taught the basic High School core subjects, but felt it important to be a team player. She found this outlet as the Coach for the Doll-fins synchronized swimming team. Many young ladies still have fond memories of your mother.
May her soul rest in peace!

Jane Waldo - January 15, 2013 at 09:04 PM

MH

“ Allen & Gayle,

I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. She had such a big impact on my life. I learned so much from Coach Davis on swim team, Doll-fins and in PE class. She left me with many fond memories and laughs. My thoughts are with you and your families during this time of loss.

Margot (Wright) Hoffman, AHS 1977 - 1980

Margot Hoffman - January 15, 2013 at 08:00 PM

PP

“ Jean and Ralph were long, long time friends of ours. We spent many hours around the bridge table and at the lake with them and Jean and I swam each summer when I was home. I loved them both, but Jean was my buddy and it was sad for me when we lost touch as her memory slipped. She was funny, supportive and had great common sense and was always a joy to be around. Ralph was always full of fun and kidding and once made a trip with Gordon moving a lot of our stuff down to the tip of Texas. They left and were back in 5 days! Surprised me since it always took us 4 days to make the trip one-way!!! They loved you kids and even more so loved the grandkids! I know you have a huge hole in your lives now but they will live on within each of you - and us. Lucky us for having known and enjoyed them. Two of the "good ones!"
Sincere love and regards,
Peggy and Gordon Philbrook

Peggy J Philbrook - January 15, 2013 at 06:25 PM

AA

“ Our Condolences to Sam, Gayle, Tory, and Trey Mitchell and the rest of the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. So sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. Sincereley, John and Annette Glaser and family.

Annette Aranda-Glaser - January 15, 2013 at 01:40 PM

KG

“ Thanks for touching so many lives, Jean, and for all the treasured Doll-fin memories. You and Ralph will be missed.

Kristin G. AHS 1986-1989

Kristin G. - January 14, 2013 at 10:06 PM

JK

“ Jody (Baugh) Kintner lit a candle in memory of Sylvia "Jean" Davis



Jody (Baugh) Kintner - January 14, 2013 at 07:42 PM

JK

Praying, for Mrs. Davis Family. I had her as a Teacher and she was Great. God bless

Jody (Baugh) Kintner - January 14, 2013 at 07:43 PM

MK

“ Mary Nelson Kemerer lit a candle in memory of Sylvia "Jean" Davis



Mary Nelson Kemerer - January 14, 2013 at 06:58 PM

MK

Gayle and family... I am thinking about all of of you. That is a beautiful obituary.

Mary Nelson Kemerer - January 14, 2013 at 07:12 PM

JH

“ *Deepest sympathy to all of Jean's family. Your loss of Jean and Ralph, within a matter of weeks has to leave an enormous void in your lives. I was fortunate to have "Mrs. Davis" for P.E., Doll-Fins, and a variety of other roles during my high school years. She was always a favorite teacher/coach and her sense of humor and willingness to go the extra mile for her students earned her a great deal of respect.*



It is my hope that your family will find comfort in the memories of these two wonderful people and your great good fortune to have been part of this family. As deeply sorry as we are to have lost such a special couple, I find it comforting to know they are once again together. Know that so many people, touched by Jean and Ralph, are keeping you in their hearts and thoughts.

Jeanne (Hewes) Huyser - January 14, 2013 at 04:23 PM

LM

So sorry to hear this news. I have a lot of great memories of your mom from gym class and while I was in Doll-fins at AHS. Peace be with you.
Leslie Murphy - AHS 1976-1980

Leslie (MacDonald) Murphy - January 16, 2013 at 06:45 PM