



Mary Alice Davis Mitchell Gazzola

February 21, 1923 - March 1, 2019

Mary Alice will always be remembered for her fire and passion. She loved to tell fun, amazing stories about her family. She was the family historian. An advocate for education, politics and the arts. She was fearless when it came to standing up for her beliefs.

She loved life and knew what it meant to believe in someone and provide guidance and second chances. She was quick witted and loved to challenge herself, others and ideals. She demanded more for herself and everyone around her. She was independent, confident and unapologetic about who she was and what she thought should be. Her piano came alive when she played anything, but especially when she played boogie-woogie. She was an avid dancer, her favorite being the two-step. For many years she danced several nights a week and attributes her longevity to dancing. She was proud of her Scotch-Irish heritage and enjoyed wearing her kilt to the Scottish events.

Mary Alice was born on February 21, 1923 in Altus, Arkansas to Sam and Evelyn Davis and recently celebrated her 96 birthday. She and her first husband, George Mitchell, lived in Alix, Arkansas and farmed land near the Davis Lake. She started college at the age of 30 and received a BS in Education and Library Science from Arkansas Tech and later a Masters of Art from the University of Arkansas. She was a teacher and a professional artist for more than 40 years. In 1975, she married Ben Gazzola and moved to Roland, Oklahoma. After retiring from teaching, she established a library and for this achievement, she received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the state of Oklahoma in 2000. She was President of the Business Women's Association in Fort Smith, Arkansas and was honored as their Woman of the Year in 1994. In 2015, she moved to Virginia to live with her daughter. She had many friends everywhere she lived and stayed in touch with them throughout her lifetime.

She is preceded in death by her brothers Fain and Fred Davis and her sister Nan Bartlett. She is survived by brother, John Davis of Hutchinson, Kansas, daughter Mary Ann Beard of Gainesville, Virginia. and son Johnny Mitchell of Alix, Arkansas. She loved and adored her four grandchildren: Tony Mitchell, Kevin Mitchell, Daniel Beard and Kellee Marshall.

Comments



“ Best example of a true lady I've ever had the pleasure of knowing! She was as fiery as they come!! Love this lady like my own grandmother! Sure gonna miss her. I only wish I was to become half the lady she was! Rest in peace my friend, I sure loved ya!!

Candy Woodward - March 06 at 05:42 PM



“ Mary Alice or 'Murray Alice' as I called her, was a marvel. Lots of fire. Fiercely intelligent and interested and interesting. So very vital. She loved life, her family, friends and dance.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Elaine Okal - March 06 at 09:54 AM



“ Mrs Gazzola - well when I was in school - Mrs Mitchell! She was one of the best teachers. She loved her students and some now realize that they loved her. She would come into my work and ask for me when getting her taxes done. She always asked about my family and wanted everyone to come see her. She will be missed for sure.

Debbie Morris - March 06 at 07:50 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was my art teacher, and I loved her. She was most definitely one of a kind, and loved the arts for sure. I would visit her at the Roland Library on occasions after I graduated from school, and was just still as nice as she could be. She will be missed.



Valerie Tabor Perceful - March 05 at 10:12 PM



“ Mary Alice was a dear friend to my parents. They also loved going to ballroom dances in Fort Smith, Ark. She became a very dear friend to me when I moved to Roland, OK 19 years ago. Missed her when she moved away a few years ago but will never forget her compassion & unselfishness. Lynda K. (Rose) Goff

Lynda K. (Rose) Goff - March 05 at 05:30 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Alice Davis Mitchell Gazzola.



March 05 at 09:34 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was always there to encourage me. She always called me "Little Taylor", seeing as how she taught my 3 siblings and several cousins. She will be greatly missed.

Jackie Taylor Smith - March 04 at 09:01 PM



“ I didn't know Mary Alice very long, but I was her new neighbor when she moved up to Virginia. I would go visit her as often as I could. I enjoyed her stories about her experiences through out her life. She was a spunky lady and I will miss her.

Vivian Sobolewski

Vivian Sobolewski - March 04 at 03:55 PM



“ If you ever wanted to read a good book and needed a suggestion, she was always there and always knew the right book for me.
I ran into her a few years ago in Roland. She told me that her students at Roland were the best anywhere. Her friends who taught in other areas had told of their horror stories dealing with students. She said she always bragged about her students, the best anywhere!
I'm glad I could be included as one of her students.
I was always impressed that she would go back to college in the summer to extend

her education.

One of the smartest ladies I've ever known and so proud to have called her "teacher".

She will be missed.

Sherry Taylor House

Sherry House - March 04 at 02:04 PM



“ I remember her picking me up at my house. We went to the Lighthouse in and ate that we went to a bookstore and she bought me a couple of books. I worked with her in the library at school. She will be missed

Roberta Farmer Greene - March 04 at 01:25 PM



“ 12 files added to the album Mary Alice Davis Mitchell Gazzola - Photos



Kellee Marshall - March 04 at 11:42 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Mrs. Gazzola's passing. She was a great teacher and truly one of a kind. Prayers for the family.

Marlo Crowson

Marlo Crowson - March 04 at 11:16 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was my Art teacher, and I loved her dry wit. She always insisted on proper grammar. I loved to hear her use proper English when she spoke. She would let you know when you were out of line and she was quick to give an encouraging word. She was truly a dedicated and gifted teacher. She was truly loved by her students.

Donna Ross - March 04 at 10:22 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was without a doubt my favorite teacher during my entire time at Roland HS. We could be a hard class but she didn't let it faze her and she always gave me encouragement, spoke to me like I was an adult and inspired me to take art seriously. I bumped into her about 5 years about which was over 20 yrs since I had graduated and she immediately knew my name and talked about several stories we shared. She made a real impact on so many lives and I cherish out time together.

Jeremy Dean - March 04 at 10:06 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was my high school art teacher and good friend. It was her urging and influence that encouraged me to pursue and achieve a college degree and career in the visual arts as a graphic designer. She had a incredible sense of humour along with a disciplined sense of ethics and work which instilled my great respect for her. I will always remember her and forever be grateful that I was fortunate enough to have had the experience of knowing this great teacher and loving woman.



Garry D. Williamson II - March 04 at 08:34 AM



“ Mrs gazzola was my favorite teacher. She was strict but fair and she had a heart of gold.
My prayers are with the family.

Fredda - March 04 at 07:52 AM



“ Thought the world of this lady.... and a lady she wasshe was my 7th & 8th grade cheer leading sponsor. She was always fun to run into while she was still living in Roland she never forgot who you were....She has been missed in our community.....my sympathy goes out to the entire family.....

Cindy Wilson Barker - March 04 at 06:15 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was a teacher at Roland High School and was loved by her students. When the annual prom was held in our beautifully decorated cafeteria, I attended t because I was on the school board and I believe school board members should attend all school functions. After eating some of the finger food at the prom, Mrs Gazzola and I would sit outside of the cafeteria building in chairs having a good ol' time visiting and exchanging stories. We could easily hear the music being played inside the building. We did this at every prom until she retired. I am still on the Roland School Board and I still miss her not being present at our annual prom and other school activities.

Charles A Howard - March 04 at 02:05 AM



“ Mrs. Gazzola was a great educator' She was gutsy, stood her ground and loved others. She has been missed since she moved from this area, but her memory will linger forever'

Jenny Kolp - March 04 at 12:34 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Mrs Gazzola's passing. I remember her at Roland as being a spit fire but I loved to see her laugh. She kept "her" library at the high school as it should be. She was very particular and made sure the students were kept in line. Great lady!!!!

Cindy Matthews Huggins - March 04 at 12:32 AM



“ Perhaps the most dedicated teacher I have ever known. I am so sad to see this... She was a mentor of mine for many years after high school graduation. They don't make teachers like Mary very often, if ever. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Brian Gilbert - March 04 at 12:25 AM



“ Cheerleader Coach and Librarian teacher...Great Lady...

Kim Dewitt Jones - March 04 at 12:24 AM



“ I'm so sorry for your lost. Mrs Gazzola was a wonderful lady and one of my favorites while I was attending Roland High School

Tommy Gage - March 03 at 11:52 PM



“ Wonderful lady! She was my mother's cousin and part of our lives for many year. She is missed. Peace for all her family.

Eva Ella Millsap - March 06 at 10:13 AM