



Mrs. Eloise Reece Phillips

May 10, 1935 - May 1, 2021

Mrs. Eloise Marie Reece Phillips, well-known musician and educator, was a lifelong resident of Roswell, a true second generation Roswellian. Lovingly called “Weezy” by certain ones, she lived a full life of service which began as early as her school days at Roswell Elementary School. She often had to play piano for chapel services when the music teacher was absent. She made her final departure from Roswell on May 1, 2021 in her beloved hometown.

Eloise entered Roswell High School but it was void of extracurricular activities and sports programs. Eloise became instrumental in spearheading efforts to organize a girls basketball team, Beta Club, the annual, the school newspaper, band/chorus, 4-H Club, Hi-Y Club, student council, FBLA, Drama Club. Eloise suggested the name “Roswell Hornets” for the sports programs. She won the FIRST girls’ basketball trophy given at RHS for Most Valuable Player. Eloise loved playing basketball.... even scoring 35 points against Milton one night!

She helped with the organization of the first Roswell Youth Day/Parade and rode on the first float in her letter jacket. She performed in many plays and, although not enrolled in the band program, played keyboards/marimba for band concerts. She graduated salutatorian in 1953. Two more generations of Reece family followed her at Roswell High School by playing in band or football teams. In fact, Roswell High School has had a Reece family member from 1948 to 2017: a three generation RHS family legacy.

During high school Eloise was involved in a terrible unfortunate school bus accident. The bus stalled on the track, and was hit by a train. She was among the many injured but the girl who sat behind her died. Eloise heard something tell her to lay on the laps of the girls across from her. She heeded the voice. God had plans for Eloise.

Then Eloise met Roy! Both came from singing families. But she was surprised at one basketball game when shooting a hoop shot, and none other than Roy J. Phillips was standing under the basketball goal in his army uniform. They nodded at each other...you know the story from there! Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Phillips were together for 37 years.

Before the kids were born Eloise worked as executive secretary to the President of the Georgia Board of Education. She felt a calling at this point to retire and start teaching piano full-time. She had a passion for her students to be well-rounded, comfortable in all

stylings from classical and to Southern gospel, and has influenced COUNTLESS students and other pianists. She delighted in saying that she had taught some of THE BEST pianists who play in Southern gospel music. Her legacy can be heard on Sunday mornings in the USA and many other countries, at hundreds, thousands of churches, and at singings, weddings, and many other celebrations.

Eloise felt a great need to have a shaped-note singing school in Georgia, and through much effort the North Georgia School of Gospel Music was organized. She also played a key role in starting Alabama School of Gospel Music and Stamps-Baxter School of Music. Eloise taught at these and other summer singing schools and at local singing schools at churches for over 30 years.

Roy and Eloise enjoyed ministering together as members of the Traveliers Quartet. Eloise served as pianist at Rock Springs Baptist Church and Northside Baptist, Roswell, where she also directed several Easter and Christmas dramas. Northside was home. Everyone who knew Eloise knew how much she loved singing, playing piano and organ, and writing songs for singing conventions. In 2010 friends from many states gathered at Northside for a special celebration in tribute to Eloise's 65 years in gospel music. Also that year, the Mayor of Roswell declared an Eloise Phillips Weekend for the city!

Eloise is survived by daughter Tracey Leigh Phillips; son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Jackson Phillips (Loretta); grandchildren Logan Jackson Phillips and Mya Marie Phillips, named after Eloise; her sisters Geneva Reece Dangar, and Laverne Reece Bates; twelve nieces and nephews, several great nephews and nieces and, her most loyal companion, and fiercest protector, her poodle, Sebastian.

Funeral services for Eloise will be at Grace Community Church, 7770 Hickory Flat Hwy., Woodstock, GA. 30188, Saturday, May 8, at 1 PM. Her body will lie in state from 12 PM to 1 PM. Visitation will be on Thursday, May 6 and Friday, May 7 from 4 PM to 8 PM each evening at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors, 12050 Crabapple Rd., Roswell, GA. 30075. Interment will be at Green Lawn Cemetery in Roswell, next to Roy.

In lieu of flowers, please either send a donation for the Eloise Phillips music scholarship for the benefit of students attending singing schools in the Southeast, to Tracey Phillips, c/o Grace Community Church, 7770 Hickory Flat Highway, Woodstock, GA, 30188, or send green plants, or azaleas or something to plant so that the family can remember and appreciate those who sent them.

Cemetery

Events

Green Lawn Cemetery

10993 Alpharetta Hwy
Roswell, GA,

MAY **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

6

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA, US

MAY **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

7

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA, US

MAY **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

8

Grace Community Church
7770 Hickory Flat Hwy., Woodstock, GA, US, 30188

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Northside Chapel - May 02, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ So many memories of Eloise over the years. I loved her plucky and jaunty independence. She could really surprise you, too! As we were waiting to enter my dad's funeral in 2009, I heard quite a spirited rendition of In the Sweet Forever welcoming us in. It was Eloise, who had made the drive up from Roswell to Ellijay without telling me she was coming. That was just so special.

Michael Gibson - May 04, 2021 at 05:26 PM



“ I adored my piano teacher, Eloise Phillips. For my first recital, she gave me "Blue Tail Fly" to play. No way, I said to myself,. Instead I learned another harder piece: "For Eloise" by Beethoven. 'Nuf said.

Ben Henderson - May 25, 2021 at 10:30 AM



“ I'm not sure, but I believe Eloise was partly responsible for getting me hired to teach in perhaps more than one summer gospel music schools, for which I will be forever grateful. I remember the time that Eloise, Tracey and myself received recognition and a framed picture of the first Ben Speer Stamps Baxter School of Music at Belmont for the longest tenure of 28 years of teaching at BSSBSGM. Then there was the time Tom Powell loaned his pop up camper to my family for a 4 day vacation. After one night staying in the camper we visited The Phillips family. We spent the next couple of nights at their home. They took us to Joyful Noise Supper Club downtown Atlanta. I will never forget the experience of trying to follow Roy's driving to Joyful Noise. My family will forever remember Eloise and her family with love and so many memories.

Gary Martin - May 08, 2021 at 03:44 PM



“ You are in my thoughts and prayers during this time. I truly believe Eloise was a one of a kind, once in a lifetime sort of happening. We were ALL blest to have known her and hear her play the piano and organ. Her contribution to music, and especially "our kind" of music, will never be equaled by anyone. Peace be with you.

Ronnie Hitchcock

Ronnie Hitchcock - May 06, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“To The Phillips Family,
Sorry to hear of Miss Eloise's death. I am sure you all will enjoy the memories you have of your mother over the years. She was a fine composer/lyricist and an excellent musician. We all enjoyed being with her at many singing's and singing conventions over the years. May God be with you all for comfort and care, while we know Miss Eloise is in Heaven, singing around the throne of God.
The Reid Family Singers.
Betty-Marie, Byron, Nathan and James-Isaac”

Dr. B. L. Reid - May 05, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ I met Eloise Phillips for the first time while attending and teaching at the Stamps-Baxter School of Gospel Music in Nashville, TN. in the early 1990's. She was an outstanding piano teacher who also taught 2 of my boys! The best memories of her was her joyful and cheerful smile! I loved talking with her everyday at the school! We will miss her dearly! Love and prayers for all the family!!
Freddie Edwards and Family

Freddie Edwards - May 05, 2021 at 10:04 AM



“ Dear Tracey, Kelley,, Grandchildren, and all Family and Friends, we are praying for you all. Eloise touched so many lives. There are not enough words to express how much Eloise is loved. She is no longer suffering but is with Jesus, walking on Streets of Gold, and in a New, Perfect Body. Eloise meant so much to North Georgia School of Gospel Music, to Gospel Singings and to her many students.. She always had such a warm smile and loved everyone. God blessed her with many musical talents.. She was always concerned with other people, Gospel Singings and teaching others how to play the piano and/or the organ. Eloise leaves behind a wonderful musical legacy. She was an exemplary wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, musician and friend. There are not enough words to convey how much she has done for the Gospel Music World and Shaped Note singing and playing. She always had a positive outlook on life.

May God provide your each and every need including grace, peace, comfort, love and discernment. I cherish all if the memories and times spent enjoying her playing the piano and the organ. She was such a gracious Southern Lady. If there is someone, either a Friend or Family Member, who is not saved, may this be the time that someone will repent of their sins and accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Remember the special times shared with Eloise. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Love and prayers,

Tonya Sabrina Mitchell and Brian Lee Pace

(Daughter of the Late Rev. George J. Mitchell and Ruth Ellen Bates/niece of Ken and Betty Jean Ward of SC.)

Tonya Sabrina Mitchell - May 04, 2021 at 11:30 PM



“ So many memories of Eloise over the years. I loved her plucky and jaunty independence. She could really surprise you too! When we were about to walk into my dad's funeral in 2009 I heard a spirited piano introduction to In the Sweet Forever. It was Eloise, who had made the drive up from Roswell to Ellijay without telling me that she was coming. So very special.

Michael Gibson - May 04, 2021 at 05:31 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Eloise Reece Phillips.



May 04, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ Dear Tracey & Kelly, You know I loved your mother! What a great impact she had on my life through her love of Jesus and music! I have such fond memories of your parents staying in our home in Florida and then of my sister, Anne and me when we stayed in your home for a visit. What a legacy your mother has left! Her music has touched countless lives over the years and will continue to do so for eternity! I am so grateful I was able to visit your mom within the last year. We had a wonderful time reminiscing! I loved sending your mother a weekly card and I will miss doing so. My deepest sympathies are with you and your family. I am praying for you and your family.

Roxy Giddens - May 04, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ Roy and Eloise were two of the very best friends the DeVaughn Family had, in our mutual love of Gospel Music. Too many fond memories to mention. My heart is very heavy, but I am also rejoicing in the fact that she has received her Heavenly Welcome. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Tracey and Kelly, and all of the Phillips family. I will continue to keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Roger (Butch) DeVaughn

Roger DeVaughn - May 03, 2021 at 06:23 PM