



## Mrs. Kathryn B. Samples

May 11, 1926 - October 6, 2020

Kathryn Hesketh Samples (née Blackwood) of Roswell, GA, passed away on October 6, 2020, at 94. Born in Morgantown, MS, Kathryn lived throughout the southern United States and as far west as Texas. She ultimately moved to the Alpharetta/Roswell area in the early 1950s where she lived until her death. Kathryn was the youngest of three children of Arena and Robert Blackwood. Her father was a minister and the family moved many times during her formative years. She graduated college with a BA in Music from the University of Illinois and completed a Master's Degree in Music Education from Peabody College which is now one of the colleges that comprise Vanderbilt University. Her teaching career began at a faith-based college in Tennessee before she moved with her daughter to Georgia. In the early 1950s, Kathryn taught band at the original Milton High School in Alpharetta. She later became the peripatetic band teacher for numerous elementary schools in North Fulton County that were feeder schools for Milton High School. In the mid-1970s, Kathryn moved into elementary school administration and became the first principal of Mountain Park Elementary School in Roswell. She retired from that position in the 1980s. Kathryn's greatest passion was music. Even though she was a conformist,

she stepped out of the mainstream and chose the trumpet as her instrument. In the 1940s there were few female trumpet players. She excelled and was recognized by local newspapers during her college years. On more than one occasion she stated that she was happiest when she was making music in an orchestra or band.

Kathryn defined herself as an introvert, but she maintained a large cadre of friends of all ages throughout her life. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother and exhibited compassion, kindness and a loving spirit to all she met. She had the Puritan ethic that pushed her to make her bed every day and clean more thoroughly after the housekeeper finished. And she was a true Southern lady who still had coiffed hair, manicured nails, lovely attire and fresh lipstick.

Kathryn is survived by her daughter, Nelda Hesketh Greene; step-daughter Linda

Samples Miles (Andy); sister-in-law, Gayle Blackwood; grandchildren, Murray Greene (Amy), Robert Greene (Amy); step-grandchildren Susan Flynt (David), Alan Hunter (Karen), Scott Hunter (Julie), Shanda Agricola (Kevin), Chris Samples,

Sheanan Samples (Andrea) and Carl Samples (Malaika); an aunt, Hazel Brown; 18 great grandchildren; a niece and numerous nephews.

Kathryn is predeceased by her husband, James B. Samples; her sister, Mary Elsie Powell, her brother, Robert A. Blackwood, and her parents, Arena and Robert Blackwood.

Due to COVID-19, private graveside services will be held. In lieu of flowers please honor Kathryn by being kind to someone who does not look like you, think like you or believe as you do.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Kathryn B. Samples*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Oh, Dear Kathryn. So many of us will miss having you here! You always made my heart smile. I loved the many conversations we shared, as kindred Spirits with a curiosity about how life works and what makes human tick. What great insights we shared! And what wonderful laughter, too.*

*Thank you, Dear One, for loving and befriending me. I am forever changed for knowing you. And I will always treasure my memories of you.*

*For all the Loved Ones left behind, know that Kathryn always brightened with love and pride as she spoke of you. And she's now safely snuggled in the arms of God, the perfect place to be*

**Susan Thomas** - October 10, 2020 at 11:55 PM



“ *I never visited Kathryn when she was not upbeat and smiling. This was in the last few months as well. Her mind was very sharp for her age and this impressed me. May the God of all Comfort give her loved ones and friends a Comfort that surpasses all human understanding,.*

**James Allen** - October 09, 2020 at 05:47 PM



*Thank you. jim.  
Nelda*

**nelda** - October 09, 2020 at 06:16 PM

CC

“ *What a kind , beautiful soul! Dressed to the nines! Someone you aspire to be like. I have missed her happy face During the pandemic and I know she missed me, and visiting with everyone at the salon. Kathryn “ A Treasure and a true Gift” I’m thankful for having the pleasure to know her. She will be missed greatly.*

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**connie coleman** - October 08, 2020 at 10:59 PM

NE

*You always made her laugh and smile. She really missed her weekly visits during the pandemic.*  
Nelda

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**nelda** - October 09, 2020 at 06:17 PM

BW

“ *All the Greenes refer to this remarkable woman as "Aunt Kate," because she was much more to us than our band teacher and a good friend of our mother, Dorothy Greene. Starting with Allen, and then Douglas, Babbie, Mark and Deborah, we had quite a family of students who loved learning music from her capable hands. Not one of us can forget the amazing trumpet trios, especially one called "A Trumpter's Holiday," I think, with Aunt Kate, Mark and Deborah (and sometimes Bobby Herrin). What a joy to listen and participate! We have all been blessed to know and love her.*

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**Babbie Greene Wolf** - October 08, 2020 at 08:43 PM



“ *Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathryn B. Samples.*



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October 08, 2020 at 08:25 PM

RM

“ So glad I got to know you.

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**Ramona Mays** - October 08, 2020 at 07:00 PM

MB

“ <https://www.facebook.com/MiltonBand/posts/10159402030660769>

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**Milton High School Band** - October 08, 2020 at 12:43 PM

GB

“ *Kate was an amazing woman! She had a way of brightening any room with her presence. I was just a very young girl when she and Nelda would come to visit her parents, the Blackwoods when they were our Pastors in Louisiana. I use to so look forward to those visits. Our families would usually get together for wonderful visits and chat times. When Kate and her sister, Mary Elsie were present, no other entertainment was needed. Great memories!*

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**Grace Louise Beaver** - October 08, 2020 at 11:51 AM

SP

“ *I was one of her many students at Alpharetta Elementary , and the Roswell /: Alpharetta honor band and loved band and Mrs Hesketh, as she was then known. She encouraged me to stay in band when others were dropping out, and I later went on to major in music at Berry College, and have taught private voice as well as directing a youth choir at my church, which never would have happened without her investment in my life. I am so grateful for her kindness, patience, and dedication, She was a true inspiration and much loved. I still have my band report cards she sent home! Lovingly,*  
*Sheila Rampley Price*

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**Sheila Rampley Price** - October 08, 2020 at 07:11 AM

LM

*I was one of her students. She taught me to play the trumpet which lead to piano. She was a big influence in my love for music for my 78 years and still enjoy playing the piano. This makes me more aware that we should give roses to the living not the dead. Thank you Ms Hesketh*  
❤️🎵 Linda Tucker Martin

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**linda Tucker Martin** - October 08, 2020 at 07:38 AM