



Arlene Murphy Downing

SEP 25, 1946 - SEP 25, 2015



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B ONAIRE-

Arlene Murphy Downing, beloved mother and master educator, who touched many lives in Houston County is no longer with us. She passed away on Friday, September 25, 2015, in the comfort of her own home. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, October 2, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home in Perry. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery immediately following the service. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 1, 2015, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions to the Kings Chapel Elementary School Family Fund, Houston County Board of Education, 1100 Main Street, Perry, GA 31069.

Arlene was born in Cambridge, MA, to the late Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy. She moved to Japan with her family for 4 years as a teenager, where she graduated from high school and began college. Arlene moved to GA upon returning to the United States. A resident of Bonaire for many years, she spent much of her time in Perry. Arlene shared the experience of living in Japan with everyone. She

shared her love of Japanese culture and Siamese cats with her sons, her students, and anyone willing to listen and learn. Arlene invested nearly 40 years in elementary education.

Arlene always had a soft spot in her heart for all of her students. On occasion, Arlene had the privilege to teach the child of a former student in her classroom. Teaching multiple generations of a family deeply touched her heart and gave her everlasting satisfaction. Her sons both remember meeting many former students on numerous occasions. Arlene could reconnect with a

student she hadn't seen in decades, yet remember his or her name as well as names of parents and siblings. Arlene will be remembered and revered by so many and will continue to live on forever



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in the hearts and minds of the many people she touched. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Nolan Colston (1972) and Lloyd Downing (1983).

Left to cherish the memory of Arlene are her two sons, Jonathan Edward Downing of Bonaire and Anthony Alexander Downing (Laura Taylor) of New Orleans, LA; her beloved cats; her brothers, John Murphy (Caroline) of Mobile, AL, and Paul Murphy of Atlanta; her brothers-in-law, Damian Downing (Sharon) of Opelika, AL, and Paul Downing of Winton, CA; along with several nieces and nephews.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at www.watsonhunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.



Tribute Wall

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MA

Marilyne Ayers posted:

I went to school in Japan with Arlene, riding the bus home from Johnson High School was always fun. I remember Arlene fondly. we had a lot of fun in Japan as military "Brats." The JHS Alumni will miss Arlene very much.

October 5 at 8:00 PM

PD

Paul Downing posted:

I will miss hearing from her and the conversations that we had in which she was always positive and never had anything negative to say. She always spoke highly of the boys, and her talking about the cats was always humorous. She will surely be missed.

October 3 at 8:00 PM

SS

Stacey Sirois posted:

I my deepest sympathies to all of the family of Mrs Arlene I worked with Mrs Arlene for a year at VF outlet in Byron she was such a wonderful person and loved to hear all the stories that she had to say and they were very interested that I couldn't stop listening and wanted to hear more I am glad I got to know Mrs Arlene she will be missed by all that knew her

October 2 at 8:00 PM

AP

Annice & Keith Peterman posted:

Our hearts grieve with you, Arlene will be sorely missed. You both are in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. With much love and tears from our family to yours.

October 1 at 8:00 PM



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BM

Brad Morris posted:

Johnathan, Anthony...your mother has been in my life for as long as I can remember. "Ms. Arlene" was quirky...different...and she would always play up to that with me -looking back on it now, just to get a reaction out me a majority of the time! One thing was for sure though, I have always known your mother came from a place of love and I loved her in return for that. Looking here, reading some of the other kind words left by many others on this Guest Book, I see she left them with the same feeling - of being covered in Caring and smothered with Love. Your mom cared, she wore it on her sleeve and it applied to everyone she came in contact with. I'm grateful that I got to experience it...my mother and father have been blessed to have received it for as long as they did...and I'm appreciative that my family, my kids in particular, will have memories of it before her untimely passing. No question, Ms. Arlene's life was a life well lived. For a person who things didn't always go her way, who had more than her fair share of tough times, she continuously put others first...often putting their needs above her own. Boys...those feelings, that legacy...that will last a lifetime...for you and for all of us who's lives were graced to have her touch them in some small way. I'm going to miss her...my mother is going to miss her other best friend now...my father, whether he'll admit it or not, is going to miss the frequent concern for his health and well-being...and my children are going to miss the cards in the mail (which we all know means so much to a child though it may seem so insignificant to us as adults)...I'm sorry for your loss Johnathan and Deek...I'm sorry for all our loss. Love y'all.

October 1 at 8:00 PM

WB

Walter Battie posted:

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

September 30 at 8:00 PM

MR

Michael Ross posted:

I will miss her.she was THE TEACHER that i will always remember. Kindness compassion are just some of the ways to describe her. She always had a place in my heart and memories.

September 30 at 8:00 PM



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DE

Dicky Erwin posted:

Jonathan and Anthony,I had known your mom since the mid 70's when we were just starting our teaching careers. I always heard good things about her teaching by our peers. God bless and keep you both during your time of sorrow and grief. Cling to the precious memories you both have of her. May she always live in your hearts.

September 30 at 8:00 PM

KR

Kristina Roden posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Mrs. Arlene at VF Outlet and enjoyed her visits with us at the store over the years. I will miss our little chats. She was a great woman and always had a story to tell. My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.

September 30 at 8:00 PM

KW

Kelly Wyatt posted:

My deepest sympathy for your loss. Arlene was a sweet and kind lady. She will be missed by many. Prayers for the family and friends. God Bless You!

September 29 at 8:00 PM



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Nutrina Whitehurst posted:

To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say...but first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above.Here, there's no more tears of sadness; here is just eternal love. Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight. Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon and night. That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through, God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you." It's good to have you back again; you were missed while you were gone.As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.I need you here badly; you're part of my plan.There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal man. God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do.And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you.And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight.God and I are closest to you....in the middle of the night.When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving yearsbecause you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain.Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned.But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er.I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb;but together we can do it by taking one day at a time.It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too...that as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain,then you can say to God at night....."My day was not in vain."And now I am contented....that my life has been worthwhile,knowing as I passed along the way, I made somebody smile.So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low,just lend a hand to pick him up, as on your way you go.When you're walking down the street, and you've got me on your mind;I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.And when it's time for you to go.... from that body to be free,remember you're not going.....you're coming here to me. Ruth Ann Mahaffey (author)©Copyright 1998

September 28 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I will miss such a very special friend. Arlene worked with me and not for me. She was a great employee of GNFA. She was so very smart and a great educator. She loved all that came in contact with her great humor and personality. She was a trophy educator and such a brilliant person. I will miss her brilliance laughter patience and her love for teaching. Love to the family.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



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Evelyn Castleberry posted:

I couldn't believe this when someone told me this precious lady had passed away. She was my 4th grade teacher at Tucker Elementary. It was her first year of teaching and she was so great. She related to each of us. She even chose some of us to have a spend the night party at her house. We laughed and she cooked for us. She was a special lady and I have to say one of my favorite teachers ever. I saw her later on in life and she came up to me with her beautiful smile and big hug. I am so sorry for your loss and my prayers are with her family. I have to put Evelyn Castleberry as my name but I was Evelyn McDowell when I was in her class.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



Cathy Heller posted:

Your mom was an incredible woman. She always knew what to say and how to encourage others! I often think fondly of our cat conversations! She was an awesome teacher and mentor and will forever live in my memories of my time at Kings Chapel.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



Trish Motley posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Downing was such a wonderful lady and amazing educator. May God bless and keep you!

September 29 at 8:00 PM



Jim & Cyndi Houser posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. Your mother's kindness, not only our son, but to us, when we moved to Perry from out state has always been a great memory. She was a great teacher and helped our son transition to a new school system.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My deepest sympathy to the family. I will miss her always. She was a wonderful person and good friend for years peace and love Maureen

September 29 at 8:00 PM



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GD

Glenn Tyrone Duckworth posted:

Mrs. Murphy was my 4th grade teacher and my favorite teacher of all time. She also taught my children and was a favorite of theirs. She always hugged my neck when she saw me in town. She was a special lady and will be missed by many as she touched so many lives.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

PB

Pam Watson Brown posted:

Your Mom was my 3rd grade teacher at Perry Elementary. She always cared about her students and taught us well. She was so attentive to her students. She noticed that I needed glasses and notified my parents. What a caring lady. May God give you comfort during this sad time.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

MM

Marianne Melnick posted:

Jonathan and Anthony, my thoughts and prayers are with you both. So sorry for your loss. May God give you the strength to endure.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

LF

Linda And Paige Fountain posted:

I am so sorry for your lose.I had the honor to work with Arlene at VF Outlet.My daughter and I will hold on to the memories we shared with her.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

RM

Rose Mckinney posted:

I enjoyed working with your mom at the Ag Center. She always had something up lifting to share. Will miss and think about her often.My deepest sympathy is with you as you cope with her loss.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

MT

Melissa Strickland (Taylor) posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family as they try to find peace in this troubling time. She was an amazing woman, who raised some amazing boys. I m so sorry for your loss.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



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CV

Cindy Vilardi posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We hope that you find comfort in your memories, her legacy, and God's love which is experienced through his people who support you during this.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

KD

Kesha Dollar posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I enjoyed working with Mrs. Arlene at VF Outlet. She was a wonderful woman.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

TH

The Staff Of Watson-Hunt Funeral Home posted:

Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

JA

Joy Albritton posted:

My thoughts and prayers are sent for the family. I enjoyed working with Arlene as a fellow usher at the GA National Fair concerts for several years. Our paths crossed a few weeks ago while shopping and we chatted. She told me about the upcoming wedding and all about her cats. Treasure all those precious memories of her.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My condolences to the Downing family. May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding calm your hearts and help you to cope during this difficult time.

September 29 at 8:00 PM

PB

Peggy Lane Bryant posted:

Miss Murphy was my 4th Grade teacher at Tucker Elementary and great friend of my family!! She touched so many lives as a teacher. She always had a special place in my heart.

September 29 at 8:00 PM



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KH

Kurt Houser posted:

Jonathan and Anthony, We've never met but please accept my condolences on the passing of your mother. I'll always remember fondly Mrs. Downing for being such a kind and welcoming presence to a very homesick and lonely "Yankee" 3rd grader who came to Kings Chapel midway through the school year. Truly a special lady

September 29 at 8:00 PM

KK

Kim Keuper posted:

I will miss my friend oh so very very much. Arlene worked with me at GNFA not for me as some people may think. She was an employee of GNFA not mine. She was smart and a wonderful teacher and human being. She was full of energy ready to help others and a great lady. I shall miss her but remember the precious times we spent together when she worked do GNFA. Love to Anthony and Jonathan. I'm so sad for the loss of your precious Mother. She was a gem. Love

September 29 at 8:00 PM

BA

Becky Adkins posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Your Mother and Grandmother were our next door neighbors for many years. Your Mother will be missed by many. Mary Becham and Becky Adkins

September 29 at 8:00 PM

LJ

Lakeskia Jackson posted:

She was such a sweet and charming lady I had so much fun in her 3rd grade class you will be missed

September 28 at 8:00 PM

SL

Shelia Laws posted:

I am sorry for your loss. Praying that God will comfort you.

September 28 at 8:00 PM



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ST

Sharon Darnell & Allison Tucker posted:

Dear Boys, Your Mother was one of the Most Dearest Teacher to ever have taught in Houston County. And a Person to Cherish. To know Arlene was to love her. We will all truly miss her. With Our Prayers

September 28 at 8:00 PM

JL

Jamie Lynn posted:

I'm sorry I can't be there with the girls but we are there in spirit. Hugs and love to your family.

September 28 at 8:00 PM

LL

Leelee Murphy Lewis posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with your family. My mother, Dot Murphy, taught with your mother many years ago. Mama thought a lot of your mother as a teacher and as a wonderful person.

September 28 at 8:00 PM

MU

Mandolyn Reeves Underwood posted:

I'm sorry to here of your loss!! She is one teacher I'll never forget she made alot of impression in the 2 years I had her !!

September 28 at 8:00 PM

MD

Morgan Davis posted:

My deepest regards to your family. She was not only my teacher at kings chapel but my mother's as well. And I think my grandma and grandpa knew her. I'm so sorry for your loss. She was and always will be my favorite language arts teacher! I'm gonna miss her. Wish I would've visited her more after I graduated

September 28 at 8:00 PM

JH

Jenny Harrelson posted:

She will be missed and loved she was a amazing person and had a heart of gold and cared bout all her students as well as many others.

September 28 at 8:00 PM



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JM

Julia Moore posted:

My deepest sympathies go out to Jonathan and Anthony. Your mother was a beautiful, caring, intelligent, energetic and loving lady. She was an amazing teacher and friend. I have such fond memories of your Mom at Kings Chapel. I was thrilled to meet up with her again at the Georgia National Fair. She always made me feel loved and always brought a smile to my face. You both are in my thoughts and prayers.

September 28 at 8:00 PM

NR

Nathanael Ross posted:

It was truly a blessing to have her as a teacher. May God bless and give her family peace.

September 28 at 8:00 PM

MM

Martha Miller posted:

Jonathan and Anthony, I'm so sorry for your loss. Arlene was a wonderful friend. I taught beside her for many years. She was such a loving person to everyone. I will truly miss her. My prayers are with you.

September 28 at 8:00 PM

TY

Tara Cowan (Youngblood) posted:

Mrs Downing was my "moms eyes" while I was in school, she was ALWAYS there to help her students not only through school lessons but life lessons as well. She could always tell if I wasn't myself no matter how much I'd hide the pain from an illness I have she ALWAYS knew when I was hiding it, she'd pull me out of any class no matter if I wasn't in hers just to check on me, and of course have cranberry juice waiting for me....I'm sure back then it aggravated me, but I look back now and I'm TRUELY grateful to her for all she did, every life she touched, and years later she NEVER forgot any of us. I PRAY her family finds comfort in GOD during this time, and she will be treasured FOREVER IN ALL OUR HEARTS!!

September 28 at 8:00 PM



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SC

Sara Ann Cordova posted:

Mrs Downing was one of my favorite elementary school teachers I ever had. I would always be excited to see her years after I left Kings Chapel. Prayers and blessings to her family. She was a wonderful lady and teacher who will be sorely missed

September 28 at 8:00 PM

LD

Lona Bretz Davis posted:

Was definitely one of the most unforgettable teachers by so many of us. What a legacy! Perry Elementary 3rd grade 72--73

September 28 at 8:00 PM

JM

Janice Morgan posted:

Dear Jonathan & Anthony, I am so sorry for the loss of your Mother. She was a wonderful person and neighbor. If she went for more than a day or two without seeing me, she would call just to make sure I was ok. I will miss her so much and I just wanted both of you to know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Please don't hesitate to call on me if there is anything I can do. Love to you Both, Miss Janice & Bobby

September 28 at 8:00 PM

GN

Gay Nelson posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. Our paths crossed several times during our careers and I always treasured her as my friend. Prayers for the family.

September 28 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Arlene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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