



## Nell Hermene Clarke

February 19, 1912 - March 27, 2015

On March 27 2015, Nell Hermene Baur Clarke, long time resident of Cairo, Illinois, quietly and peacefully slipped the bonds of her earthly world and made her journey to heaven.

There she reunites with her loving mother and father, her two brothers and sisters and many close friends that had preceded her in death.

Mrs. Clarke's time with this world was long and her blessings were great...she was 103. Her passing was comforted by the presence of her children and grandchildren that had come to her side to reaffirm their love and appreciation for their mother and granny. While saddened that her physical presence is no longer and that there will be no new experiences, they rejoice in the celebration of her fruitful and sweet life and will be comforted by the memory of the many happy and loving experiences she provided them.

Mrs. Clarke was born on Feb. 19 1912, in Taylor, Texas, to Paul and Henrietta Baur and was the third of four children.

Her father and mother were originally from Cairo, Illinois, and Charleston, Missouri, and moved their family back to Cairo when she was five. She remained there the rest of her life. After graduating from Cairo High School, Hermene taught kindergarten for a period of time and then attended Maryville University in St. Louis for two years before completing her bachelor's degree in business at the University of Texas, Austin. Following graduation from UT, Mrs. Clarke moved back to Cairo to be with her family and worked with her father for a few years in the insurance business.

At the beginning of the WWII she began a long career in teaching, which became her life's passion. Mrs. Clarke taught English and grammar in the Cairo Public schools until 1967 and then for Camelot for her last three years before retiring. The concern she had for her students and the lessons she imparted on them made a lasting impact. When she celebrated her 100th birthday three years previously, over one hundred of her past students attended the party celebration held at the Elks club to honor their former teacher and mentor. She is fondly remembered and loved by students who can still to this day recite the specific grammar rules she taught. Many of her students recall the Jergen's Hand Cream practical joke they played on her, and she had forgiven them all.

During her life Mrs. Clarke was involved in community and school activities too numerous to count and she was a benefactor to numerous charitable organizations around the country and to children in 3rd world countries. Up to the very end she was interested and well informed in national affairs and current events, politically involved and would be pleased to be remembered as a "good Republican." She had recently expressed a regret that she didn't think she would live long enough to vote against Hilary in 2016. She lives on through the memories of her children, grandchildren and many friends and will not be forgotten. There is much cause to celebrate her life.

Hermene Clarke's life on earth is now over, but she lived it well and made a positive impact on the many lives she touched.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul H, and Henrietta Baur of Cairo, Illinois; Dr, Paul Schuch Baur; Constance Baur; and Ogden Baur.

Mrs. Clarke is survived by her sons, John Earl Clarke of Houston, Texas and Dr. Paul William Clarke of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; five grandchildren, Douglas Clarke, Lesley Anne Gorman, Kimberly Clarke, Brian Clarke, and David Clarke; and two great-grandsons, Jonah and Asher Gorman.

Family and friends may gather from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Crain Funeral Home in Cairo, Illinois.

Funeral services for Hermene Clarke will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the

funeral home. Interment will follow in Cairo City Cemetery in Villa Ridge, Illinois.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Nell Hermene Clarke*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I remember Mrs. Clark as my junior high and high school Speech and English teacher. She was very tough but fair. I remember in junior high, she told us by the end of that year we would never say the word "Git". We would say "get". She was right. To this day (I'm 59), I cannot say "git" or hear it without my skin crawling. Thank you Mrs. Clark for being my teacher. Linda (Wallace) Newell*

Linda Newell - July 10, 2015 at 10:54 PM



“ *My dear sweet Aunt Nene....you were one of a kind! I will miss you so much but I will always treasure our fun times together and the many memories we shared! I still tell my children of the many things we did at your house in Cairo! Such fun! You are truly missed here in Texas, but I rejoice with you in knowing that you are in the presence of our Heavenly Father! Much love, Lynne Baur-Arnold*

Lynne Baur-Arnold (niece) - April 01, 2015 at 08:53 AM

KC

“ I met Hermene for the first time at her 100th birthday celebration! She was the only woman I had ever met who could put my husband in place and do it ever so graciously. She was quite a character. I admire her for the life she led and the life she accomplished. Very happy, very wise, and so very full of class. She will be missed by so many, but she will always have a place in my heart. Kerry Comer

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**Kerry Comer** - March 31, 2015 at 01:34 PM

RK

“ Gone but not forgotten, Ms. Clarke touched many lives in her 103 years, was a wonderful Person, Educator and Mother. Never met a Stranger but sure made a lot of friends.

*Richard "Dickie" Kearney*

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**Richard Kearney** - March 29, 2015 at 06:18 AM

AL

*She taught us that the knowledge we have crammed into our brains will just go to waste if we can't communicate it clearly with others.*

*She made me a grammar nerd and that's both a blessing and a curse these days when English is taking such a beating. I still diagram sentences just for fun.*

*We learned more than English from her. We learned to love life and to get excited over things that matter.*

*Amy Thomas Laughhunn*

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**Amy Thomas Laughhunn** - March 29, 2015 at 11:13 AM

JD

*Very sorry for the Clarke's family loss. Always appreciated the caring and patient ways of Ms. Clarke.*

*Janice Bevill Diamond*

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**Janice Bevill Diamond** - March 29, 2015 at 11:21 AM

PW

*I am shocked and saddened by the passing of Ms. Clarke. We just went through a long string of emails with CHS past students from the late '50's - early '60's, about how blessed we were to have her for junior high English - and yes, none of us can forget her memorable chants to help us retain the proper use of adverbs and adjectives! Diagramming sentences was a snap if Ms. Clarke was your teacher!*

*I join with all my classmates in sending prayers and God's blessings to comfort the Clarke family in their time of need. Please know that we mourn with you in your loss, and even though many of us reside far away from Cairo, Ms. Clarke continues to live on in our hearts and minds, knowing a very special lady touched our lives in a very unique way. It was an honor and a privilege to have her for my English teacher.*

*Phyllis Worthington, CHS Class of '59*

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**Phyllis Worthington** - March 29, 2015 at 01:10 PM

SB

*What a treasure...I feel so blessed to have had her for a teacher, but also a friend. Don't know how I could have made it this far without knowing what a dangling participle was. To all her family, prayers and blessings, and comfort in the knowledge that she made a lasting impression of life's joys to many. Susan Haslauer Bryant, CHS Class of 1960*

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**Susan Bryant** - March 29, 2015 at 06:24 PM