



Mrs. Marcella Loretta West Obituary

August 4, 1922 - January 29, 2013

Mrs. Marcella Loretta Kiefer West, 90, of Albany, GA died on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at Evergreen Assisting Living in Albany. A rosary will be conducted on Thursday, January 31, at 6 p.m. followed by visitation until 8 p.m. at Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, February 1, at St. Teresa's Catholic Church with Father Finbarr Stanton officiating.

Born August 4, 1922 in Dunedin, FL, Mrs. West was preceded in death by her husband, the late Marvin L. West. She is survived by her four children; Marvin L. West of Chula, GA, Judy West Eakin of Atlanta, GA, John W. West (Connie) of Durango, CO, and Gerald T. West (Kathy) of Smyrna, GA; 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Loretta was considered a pioneer in the field of journalism. After attending the University of Denver, Wayne University in Detroit and graduating from LSU in 1943, she worked as a reporter for the New Orleans State and Times-Picayune newspapers in New Orleans. Then, closer to home, she held positions as a feature writer and photographer for the Tampa Times. In 1948, Loretta accepted an opportunity to publish a weekly sports newspaper in Kansas City, MO, and wrote under the pen name Larry Kiefer. It was on a photo shoot for Armour and Company in Kansas City where she would meet her future husband, Marvin.

During their many trips from Kansas City to San Antonio, FL to visit family and friends; they would always overnight in Albany, GA -- staying at the Merry Acres Motel. During this time they came to appreciate what Albany had to offer including the weather, Radium Golf Club, and St. Teresa's Catholic School. In 1963, at the age of 40, Loretta decided to make a bold career change: She would teach and relocate to Albany.

Mrs. West accepted a position at Morningside Elementary in Albany. She later taught at St. Teresa's Catholic School, Merry Acres Junior High and Westover High School, where her Journalism background played a prominent role. She then spent 14 years with Darton College as public information coordinator before retiring in 1988.

She spent her retirement traveling the world and spoiling her 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Loretta was a longtime member of St. Teresa's Catholic Church. Mrs. West's final resting place will be The Garden of Memories in San Antonio, FL.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Old St. Teresa's Restoration Fund c/o St. Teresa's Catholic Church 421 Edgewood Lane, Albany, GA 31707.

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 31. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Funeral Mass

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Teresa's Catholic Church
421 Edgewood Lane
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Marcella Loretta West Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Marcella Loretta West Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Mrs. West was such a kind and caring friend and teacher. Even though she is no longer with us, her legacy will live on.
Take care*

Pam Bowden - Lilburn, GA - March 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all the West family.
What a remarkable woman.....loved and respected by many.*

jim hudgins - decatur, GA - friend - February 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *We were so grateful that Mrs. West was able to come to our 40th Westover High School Reunion. She was one of our class's FAVORITE teachers!!! She was quite a gal!!!*

Judy Dabbs - Albany, GA - Former student - February 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ A wonderful, caring lady and a delightful neighbor, Mrs. West will be sadly missed.

Kathleen and Ed Towson and the Kimbrell family - Albany, GA - Neighbors and freinds - February 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Dear Judy, Rusty, John and Gerald,

I am deeply saddened that your dear mom has passed. She was not only one of my favorite teachers both at St. Teresa's and WHS, but also a wonderful person and a special friend. She truly had an interesting, long and fulfilling life and I will always remember her with great fondness.

Mary Jane and I had a nice visit with her at the end of December and she asked us to come back to see her after she had moved to Evergreen. I'm so thankful that we had that time with her. I'm also glad she was able to go to the Tour Championship one last time in September. Golf may have lost its' biggest fan.

I'm sorry I'm not in town to attend her funeral mass, but my thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless you and give you strength in the days ahead. I am thankful for her positive influence on my life and the lives of so many young peoleo over the years. May she rest in peace.

*Fondly,
Al Rakel*

Al Rakel - Tucker, GA - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I have often thought of Mrs West over the years. She was the best teacher and I have fond memories of her and her journalism class. Her life story is an inspiration. What an amazing woman she was! My deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Janet Blackwell Weeks - Concord , CA - former student - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I know this picture and love it! Loretta is smiling because she is pouring a glass of wine at Thanksgiving! She was one of my Earth Angels.

Kathy West - Smyrna - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. West. She was such a sweet woman and one of my favorite teachers at Westover High School. What an amazing life she had.

Gena Kay Shealy - Roswell, GA - student at Westover - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ A sweet and dear lady that I was so fortunate to have known. As much as she loved to travel, she is now seeing a beautiful new world to enjoy. Her kids did so much for her and she loved her family so much.

John David Bartley - Hairdresser and friend - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Mrs West was one of my best high school teachers. She taught with passion and held my interest for world history. Thoughts & prayers to family. Kindly, Deb Blanchard*

Debbie Greene Blanchard - Albany, GA - High School Student - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *My favorite teacher of all time. Absolutely loved her journalism classes and took as many years as they'd let me! R.I.P Mrs. West. You'll never be forgotten.*

Teresa - Watkinsville, GA - friend - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM