



## Martha Elizabeth Dye

November 6, 1933 - November 1, 2022

Martha Elizabeth Dye, 88, of Leesburg, GA, died Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at Lee County Health and Rehab.

Her memorial service will be at 11 AM on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church. The Rev. Chuck Knight will officiate. Martha's burial service will be at 1PM on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at Westover Memorial Park, Augusta, GA. The family will receive friends at Kimbrell-Stern on Monday from 6-8 PM.

Martha was the first child of Henry Milligan Dye and Dell Walton Dye. She loved Shirley Temple, Scarlett O'Hara, books, and people.

She graduated from Tubman High School in Augusta, Georgia, where she was valedictorian. She received a Bachelor's Degree from Shorter College, a Master's Degree from the University of Georgia, and a Six Year Degree from Duke University.

Martha was a teacher of history and social studies for about 36 years. She taught in Rome, Georgia, before moving to South Georgia where she taught at Albany High School, Deerfield Windsor School, and Lee County High School.

Martha Dye was a brilliant Social Studies teacher and a gifted debate coach who used wit, guile, and love to inspire her students to excel. She poured heart, soul, endless weekends, and personal resources into helping her debate team succeed. She helped hundreds of students see greater possibilities for college, career, and life, and she continued to support them in

their adult years. Martha Dye served as a debate coach for twenty-four years, completing her last eighteen years at Lee County High School. Her teams in Lee County won sixteen straight region championships, and a total of seven state championships in GHSA AA, and AAA classifications. She was the second person elected as the Georgia All-State Debate Coach of the Year in 1984. She was inducted into the Georgia Forensic Coaches Hall of Fame in 1995. She was also a recipient of the Lee County High School Star Teacher award. In 2011 Martha Dye was honored by the Lee County Chamber of Commerce as recipient of the Partner in Education award.

The GHSA now gives an annual award to schools of less than 2,200 students that demonstrate excellence in speech and debate. This award is aptly named the "Martha Dye School of Excellence Award."

She is preceded in death by her brother Henry Dye, Jr., and her nephew Henry Dye, III.

Survivors include her sister Sarah (Leonard) Kitchens, a nephew Leonard Kitchens, III and her sister-in-law Patricia K. Dye.

Martha was a member of Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Porterfield Church, 2200 Dawson Rd., Albany, GA 31707 or the American Heart Association, [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

The family would like to thank her many friends who so tirelessly assisted her the past year.

# Cemetery Details

## Westover Memorial Park

2601 Wheeler Rd.  
Augusta, GA 30904

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Memorial Service

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Porterfield United Methodist Church  
2200 Dawson Rd  
Albany, GA 31707

## Burial Service

NOV 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Westover Memorial Park  
2601 Wheeler Rd.  
Augusta, GA 30904



# Tribute Wall



“ Ms Dye recruited me into the debate club at Deerfield High. She helped a painfully shy kid learn to speak in front of people without fainting. I am forever grateful for her kindnesses and grace. She was a great teacher and a great lady.

Steve Coarsey - September 25, 2024 at 11:59 AM

AS

“ Over 30 years later, your classroom is vivid in my mind. The semi-circle of desks readied for debate or reading our hand-written, history papers. Miss Dye, you stimulated our ability to think, change and do. The gifts you gave us so freely are not lost on me and they are priceless. Rest in Peaceful Power- you and Miss Opal.

Allyson Sellers - November 30, 2022 at 06:31 AM

LF

“ Lindsey Middlebrooks and family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Martha Elizabeth Dye.



Lindsey Middlebrooks and family - November 07, 2022 at 05:11 AM

LW

“ Martha Dye was my favorite teacher at Albany High School. We became friends when we were teachers together at Deerfield. She was a terrific person and teacher and inspiration to all who knew her.

Linda Glenn Wilburn - November 06, 2022 at 12:00 PM

SJ

“ *She was one of a kind. A true southern lady. Always enjoyed talking with her. She made you feel at ease, when you were with her. I had the pleasure of serving on the Lee County Library with her. Going to miss seeing her.*

*She touched so many lives. Hold on to the memories always.*

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**Smitty Johnson** - November 06, 2022 at 09:46 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Martha Elizabeth Dye.*



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November 06, 2022 at 07:09 AM

VP

“ *Our sympathies to the friends and family of Martha Dye. She was smart, funny, and loving. We got to know her and Opal Cannon from their visits to Clayton where they regularly attended Clayton First United Methodist Church when they were up in the mountains. What a great friendship they shared. Vickie & George Prater*

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**Vickie and George Prater** - November 05, 2022 at 03:17 PM

RC

“ In the world of debate, Martha Dye put Lee County on the map. When her debate team humbled a highly regarded opponent, they never again asked where Lee County was. She was recognized statewide as a top flight debate coach Her peers honored her by inaugurating the Martha Dye Debate Tournament. She spent her week ends at debate tournaments and brought home many first place trophies. A number of lawyers and at least one Superior Court judge got their start on Martha Dye's debate team. After a week end at debate tournaments, Martha spent the next five days as an exemplary classroom teacher. She will be greatly missed. I extend my sincere sympathy to her family.  
Robert A. (Bobby) Clay

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**Robert Clay** - November 05, 2022 at 12:28 PM

DP

“ Martha Dye impacted so many lives as a teacher and friend. Prayers for her loved ones. Dimi & Thomas

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**Dimi Pace** - November 05, 2022 at 01:08 AM

BW

“ Our condolences are with Miss Martha's family & friends. Brenda Gail & Danny Wall (Leesburg, GA.)



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**Brenda Gail & Danny Wall** - November 04, 2022 at 10:52 PM

CF

“ *Ms. Dye was my high school social studies teacher at Albany High School. She was a great teacher and a great person. She was enthusiastic and made you want to learn. She had a dry sense of humor that was second to none. She will be missed. Cecil Fowler.*

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**cecil fowler** - November 04, 2022 at 08:28 PM

AJ

“ *Miss Dye was a great English teacher to me in many ways, little did I know that her English writing courses would help me in the years to come. While in the USAF, when I wasn't flying, I worked several additional duties where I was required to write flight mission reports, squadron history, squadron mission and operational plans, along with numerous other types of reports. Because of what Miss Dyes taught me in school, it helped me in writing those reports in a proper way. I have to say, everyone of my Squadron Commanders had high praises in my ability to write those reports and I always Thanked her for giving me that gift that helped me in many ways. Thank You Miss Dye for all you did in teaching me and all the others who had you as one of their teachers..*

*Arlie C. Griffis, Jr. LCHS Class Of 1978*

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**Arlie C. Griffis, Jr.** - November 04, 2022 at 08:14 PM

DR

“ *A truly great lady.  
R.I.P. Martha  
Prayers for all who knew and loved you.*

*Donald and Theresa Rhodes*



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**Donald Rhodes** - November 04, 2022 at 08:02 PM

ST

“ Miss Dye taught me many years ago at Deerfield, before it became Deerfield Windsor. She taught me Georgia history and my favorite World history. She always added something special to the classes from her vast knowledge of the subject. She was always my very favorite history teacher and left a lasting love for history. I had the good fortune to reconnect with her on Facebook several years ago. We were able to chat and catch up. We had hoped to get together the next time I got back to Albany. Sadly, that won't happen now. I will truly miss her, and her sharp wit. No one that knew her can ever forget her.

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**Sallie Timmerman** - November 04, 2022 at 05:37 PM

NB

“ Can't honestly remember where or when I became friends with Martha. Maybe Porterfield Church or the bank. Just know that she was a pleasure to know for so many years. Just thank God for the short visits that always brightened my day! Nell Blaylock

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**Nell H Blaylock** - November 04, 2022 at 04:09 PM

LC

“ Miss Dye was a remarkable history teacher and debate coach. She always made me feel like she was giving the “secret” stories behind the history lessons. Her passion for teaching showed in everything she did. She will be very much missed.

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**Lenore Califano** - November 04, 2022 at 03:00 PM

SH

“ Having Martha and Opal as friends was a treasure for me. Miss them and our visits. RIP

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**sandra h. hancock** - November 04, 2022 at 09:00 AM



CR

“ A truly great teacher and bright light in the duller four years of my life at Albany High. Her enthusiasm inspired me to learn. She also had a wonderfully wicked sense of humor. I will always remember the day in class when the junkyard across the street, which perpetually sent up a column of black smoke, suddenly erupted with pure white smoke. Miss Dye without missing a beat in her lecture said, "Oh, look, class, they've elected a new pope!" Great memories of a great teacher. You did your work superbly, Miss Dye! Thank you for a life well lived.

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**Clive Rainey** - November 04, 2022 at 08:53 AM

MJ

“ Ms. Dye was my history teacher at Deerfield during 1966 to 1969. She shared with us the very best stories about whatever historical event or time we were studying. History was never a dull listing of dates in her classes. She knew so much about every historical period and made them all come alive. I thank her for her dedication to true scholarship and encouraging us all to excel. She definitely had high expectations for us and made us work and study. What a wonderful teacher!  

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**Mary Mitchell Jones** - November 04, 2022 at 07:24 AM

MH

“ Martha (aka Marfie) was the best friend of my grandmother Opal Cannon that passed just 3 weeks ago. There is no doubt that their angel wings are getting in the way of reminiscing about the mountains, good friends, the braves and a good game of carrom. You will be missed dear friend. You weren't blood, but DEFINITELY a member of our family! RIP, Love Martin, Flynn and Brittany

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**Martin Hunkele** - November 03, 2022 at 10:52 PM

EH

“ *She was a great teacher! She made history a little more interesting!!!*

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**Elise Wright Hughes** - November 03, 2022 at 09:51 PM

KR

“ *Miss Martha was such a joy as we talked about years past and her thoughts of the world around us! Such a ever joy to be around! Will love and miss you so much!!! Love Kelly Rumph*

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**Kelly Rumph** - November 03, 2022 at 09:30 PM

KH

“ *Ms Dye was my home room & history teacher at Deerfield for several years, then later, a Facebook friend. Such a wonderful lady - RIP Ms Dye* ❤️

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**Kay McGarity Heidt** - November 03, 2022 at 09:07 PM

BL

“ *Miss Dye was one of my very favorite teachers, inspiration, and mentor! May she have infinite peace and joy!* 💕🙏 *Bobbi Sasser Livingston*

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**barbara livingston** - November 03, 2022 at 07:58 PM

DB

“ Ms. Dye is one of the souls that entered my life for the better. She impacted my life as a teacher and gave me a love for American History, and we had a shared love for *Gone with the Wind*. She stayed in touch with me almost 40 years later. We had a fun tradition of wishing each other a true birthday greeting. She would wish Rhett a Happy Birthday, and I would always return the favor and wish Ms. Scarlett a happy one too. Heaven gained a wonderful soul, and it is our loss. However, I know that one day I will see her again. My prayers are with all of you during this time. So thankful for this lady.

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**Dave Branch** - November 03, 2022 at 07:46 PM

MS

“ Miss Dye was my hero and a champion for me. She believed in me when I wasn't sure of my abilities. I will miss her greatly but know she and Miss Cannon are chatting right now in heaven.  
*Melanie Mitchell Stearns*

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**Melanie Mitchell Stearns** - November 03, 2022 at 06:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Martha Elizabeth Dye.



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November 03, 2022 at 06:23 PM

NR

“ Martha was a true, loyal friend to Aunt Opal and to all my family.

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**Nancy Reimer** - November 03, 2022 at 05:17 PM

JP

“ *Martha was one of a kind. Of all our son's teachers, Martha was the one Tim loved most. Rest In Peace sweet friend. Janis Pierce*

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**Janis Pierce** - November 03, 2022 at 04:24 PM

SR

“ *Shirley Thompson Rogers lit a candle in memory of Martha Elizabeth Dye*



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**Shirley Thompson Rogers** - November 03, 2022 at 03:15 PM