



## Mrs. Sarah "Sally" McKay Hairston

July 3, 1928 - September 13, 2020

Sarah "Sally" McKay Hairston, 92, of Albany, died Sunday, September 13, 2020 at Phoenix of Albany. Funeral services will be held Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be held Friday, September 18, 2020 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Kimbrell-Stern. Dr. Biff Coker and Dr. Paul Luthman will officiate. Interment to follow at Crown Hill Cemetery. Due to Covid 19, restrictions and personal safety, we asks that those attending, wear your protective masks and use 6 feet social distancing. Sarah McKay Hairston, or Sally, as everyone knew her, was born Sarah Watkins McKay was born to John James and Josephine Banks McKay in Macon, Georgia on July 3, 1928. She was raised in Macon with her older sister, Josephine Banks McKay and attended school there. Upon graduation, she enrolled in Mercer University and became a member of Phi Mu Sorority. During her time at Mercer, she served as president of the sorority and met a young man from north Georgia named Charles Madison Hairston. After graduating from Mercer in 1950 with an A.B. (BA) in education, she and Charles (Charlie) continued their courtship and were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Macon on August 16, 1951. Soon after marriage, Sally and Charlie relocated to Albany Georgia where he began his career in mortgage banking while Sally started teaching at Northside Elementary School. She worked as a teacher in the Dougherty County School System for 19 years and then pioneered the Dougherty County School Volunteer Program and served as its director until her retirement in 1995. She also

served as director of the Partners in Excellence program in the 1980's, assisting 31 schools in the Albany area.

Charlie and Sally also raised three children after moving to Albany. Sara Banks was born on May 25, 1956, Charles Madison, Jr. was born on September 3, 1961 and Caree Watkins was born on February 22, 1964.

These three children have a total of six children and now the clan includes six grandchildren.

Sally was very active in her church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, throughout her adult life. She served in numerous capacities over the years, from Sunday School teacher, to president of the Women of the Church Organization, to Deacon, to Elder, to Synod Commissioner. There never was a time when she wasn't serving in some capacity at the church until her retirement in mid-nineties. After that time, she still remained an active member and supporter of the church and its mission.

Sally was also active in the Albany community through many organizations. She was a member of the Junior League and served as vice president and secretary. She helped organize the Albany Symphony Guild and served as president. She was member of the Albany Area Museum (now Heritage Foundation) and served as president. For Liberty House, she served as member, board member and secretary. She was also a member of the Albany Community Concert board, and program chairwomen for the Dougherty County Home Builders Auxiliary. Sally was also involved in the activities of her children by being a Cub Scout den mother and a Junior Girl Scout leader. She was also a Kiwanis Wives member, and a neighborhood chairwoman for the American Cancer Society. She served as secretary for the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also a member of the Children of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames of America.

Sally was a spirited person, promoting her community, the arts, educations, and her church. As you can see, she was also a dedicated and energetic leader. Sally was, however, most passionate about her children and grandchildren. The family trips to far-flung destinations, the Sunday and

birthday dinners, the conversations and encouragement, celebrations at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New year's Day, so many football games, and let's not forget all the many times of eating at El Vaqueros enjoying the chips 'n salsa and margaritas. Sally McKay Hairston will reverberate in our memories for the rest of our lives. Well done, good and faithful servant. One can only imagine that the endless search for the perfect seafood restaurant is over. We can envision seeing Sally and Charlie together again, enjoying the most heavenly gulf grouper with a side of oysters and their favorite beverages. Then jumping into the white convertible and moving on to the next adventure. Beautiful!

Survivors include 2 daughters, Sally Hairston Malphrus (Buck) and Caree Hairston Elder (Michael) all of Lee County, a son, Charlie (Madison) Hairston, Jr., (Cathleen) of Kennesaw, GA, 6 grandchildren, Cameron Malphrus (Krissy Letlow), James Christopher Malphrus, Sara Cathryn Baggett, Lauren Mathis, Ragan Elder, Michael Kyle Hairston, 3 great grandchildren, Cameron Malphrus, Jr, Rueben Baggett, and Henry Bradford Rakel, 2 nephews, William Lowe Sheftall and John McKay Sheftall.

Sally was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Madison Hairston, Sr.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 233 12th St., #710, Columbus, GA 31901, Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter, 1925 Century BLVD, NE, Suite 10, Atlanta, GA 30345-3315 or Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2126 E. Edgewater Dr., Albany, GA 31707.

To share your thoughts with the Hairston family, you may visit our website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Crown Hill Cemetery

Albany

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern  
1503 Dawson Road  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 883-4152  
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com?>

## Funeral Service

SEP 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2126 WW. Edgewater Dr.  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall



“ I was searching for my former teachers for my grandchildren. I just happen to see this obituary. Mrs. Hairston Taught me third grade at Northside Elementary. She was my favorite teacher all through school. She was extremely kind to me and I will never forget that. I just wanted her family to know.

Steve Penland - September 04, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ Mrs. Sarah "Sally" McKay Hairston

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ Mrs. Sarah "Sally" McKay Hairston

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ I first met Sally as a volunteer for the Bd of Ed where I worked. She later was Hired and put in charge of her Department and did a wonderful job. She passed out happiness wherever she went. We looked at the house she finally bought- so I thought of her every time I passed. I watched her lovingly take care of her husband after he got to that point, and I too ran into her in restaurants later still. She was a wonderful lady while here-and I am sure is happy there too. Gerry Hill

Gerry Hill - March 06, 2021 at 09:47 AM

LA

“ Separated by distance and busy lives, we haven't seen second cousin Sally for many years, but Lanier has warm memories of the very pretty "big girl" who grew up across the street on Vista Circle. Her lovely obituary lets us know how much we missed, and we send our sympathy to her dear family. Lanier and Nancy Anderson, Macon

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**Lanier Anderson** - September 18, 2020 at 05:59 PM

CD

“ If you lived in Albany any length of time, you met Sally. Such a sweet lady. Sorry about your loss, but God is using her already!!  
Chuck and Cris

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**Chuck Darsey** - September 17, 2020 at 10:37 PM

PM

“ Dear children of Sally and Charlie Hairston:  
Your mother was an amazing lady! I remember her back in my active Jr. League days...  
Sally was dedicated to anything she believed in and was an advocate for so many worthwhile causes.....Love to you all, and prayers that these days ahead will be filled with wonderful memories of Sally, Charlie and all the children....

*Patsy Martin*

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**Patsy Martin** - September 16, 2020 at 08:45 PM

RW

“ Mrs. Hairston was my fourth grade teacher and by far, my favorite. When a website asks me the security question "What was the last name of your favorite teacher?" I always put - Hairston. In recent years it was always a pleasant surprise to run into her having lunch at the Wild Flour Cafe. When she moved in across the hall from my mother at The Phoenix I had the opportunity to see her even more often. I cherish the fond memories.

*My condolences to the family.*

*Ralph Winter*

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**Ralph Winter** - September 16, 2020 at 03:12 PM

DB

“ Debbie Blanchard lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sarah "Sally" McKay Hairston



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**Debbie Blanchard** - September 16, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Sarah "Sally" McKay Hairston.



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September 15, 2020 at 05:05 PM

AP

“ Dear cousins Sally Banks, Charlie, and Caree,



*Aunt Jane called and told us that she saw on facebook that Aunt Sally Hairston had passed away. We are so sorry to hear about this. We fondly remember all those Hairston Family gatherings and reunions and so thankful to her and uncle Charlie for organizing those wonderful events. "Aunt Sally" was such a positive and young at heart person. I remember one family gathering in Albany years ago, she was playing sports outdoors with all of us young cousins and her grandchildren. I remember that pursuing education and studying music was very important to her. She was always interested in what we had going on and always interested in hearing about all my pursuits in music and being a professional flutist.*

*We are so thankful for all those wonderful memories!*

*We will continue to keep you in our prayers during this difficult time.*

*Love, cousin, Amy C. Parker and  
cousin, Carol Hairston Parker (daughter of Uncle Byron Hairston)*

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**Amy C. Parker** - September 14, 2020 at 08:23 PM

WW

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of your mom! Your mama and daddy were very special to Lynne and me. We enjoyed many wonderful "mortgage banking" trips but none so memorable as the infamous Hilton Head trip and the "hot plate" we all had many laugh's about that one once we knew the Hilton Hotel was not going up in flames! Memories are special cherish each one and know that our prayer are with your family!

Sincerely,  
Wayne & Lynne

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**Wayne Whitfield** - September 14, 2020 at 07:35 AM

SS

“ Mrs. Hairston was such a lovely, upbeat and sweet soul. So many wonderful memories. I'm holding you all in my heart, I know you will miss her.

Susan Dowdell Smith

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**Susan Dowdell Smith** - September 13, 2020 at 11:04 AM