



Ann Ralls Freeman Murrah

June 23, 1932 - December 22, 2018

Ann Ralls Freeman Murrah, of Orlando, 86, passed away on Saturday December 22, 2018. She was born in Gadsden, Alabama, on June 23, 1932. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Robert L. Murrah, Sr., in July, 2016, and her brother, Dr. Oscar W. Freeman, of Orlando. She attended Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia. She was a member of The Rosalind Club, Alpha Delta Pi, Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Descendants of the Signers of the Constitution.

She is survived by her daughter, Frances M. Lovett (Britt) and son, Dr. Robert L. Murrah, Jr., (Lisa) of Orlando, grandchildren William Britt Lovett, III (Melissa), Ann Lovett Elsas (Charlie), Robert Hamilton Murrah, Annie Collier Murrah, William Barton Bracey, and Bradford Ritter Bracey, and great-grandchildren Witt and Davis Lovett, Chase, Palmer, and Francie Elsas, and sister-in-law Stacey Murrah Moss (Robert).

The service is Thursday, December 27, at First United Methodist Church of Orlando, at 11:00 am. Memorial donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church or Descendants of The Signers of the Constitution, 1519 Spring Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010. A Community Funeral Home, 910 W. Michigan St., Orlando, 32806, is in charge of arrangements.

Ann grew up in Gadsden, Alabama, with her mother and older brother, Oscar

Freeman, MD; her father died unexpectedly when she was six. She spent much time with aunts, uncles, and cousins and developed a deep loyalty and love of family. From her early years, she became fascinated with her heritage and continued to honor the legacy of her forbearers throughout her 86 years. She became active in DAR very young and later, Colonial Dames, Daughters of Cincinnati, and Magna Charta Dames. Her greatest energies were focused on service to the Society of the Signers of the Constitution which she presided over for more than twenty years.

Ann had a great sense of tradition and passed that along to her children. She attended Camp Desoto in Mentone, Alabama, where she cemented lifelong friendships. Her daughter Frances later attended as did her granddaughter, Ann Elsas. She was an Alpha Delta Pi at Brenau Women's College as was her mother-in-law, Frances Murrah. Her daughter, Frances, and granddaughter, Annie Murrah, also joined her beloved ADPi sorority.

Ann valued opportunities and education and blended both throughout her life. She was still reading the Wall Street Journal for news and opinion cover to cover up until the last three months. She encouraged her children and grandchildren to pursue their intellectual and academic interests with enthusiasm and intensity. She also stressed athletic and artistic development and never minded sacrificing to provide a transformative experience for her children. With that, however, came certain expectations – she was part cheerleader and part taskmaster.

A pivotal event in Ann's life occurred when she met her husband and partner of 66 years, Bob. They met at a party at Ann's sorority house. The two had a remarkable bond and adventure that included far too many noteworthy moments to chronicle here. However, for those who knew them, it was very clear they were something very special together. Bob was quieter and supported his family and Ann, particularly, in her many interests and

endeavors. Indeed, much of her achievement and recognition was possible only because Bob was working in tandem behind the scenes. They traveled, read, enjoyed the arts, and worked on philanthropic projects together. Without question, a spark left Ann after Bob's passing in 2016.

Ann was a leader in so many ways. She grew up in a patriarchal southern culture, but was not inclined to be quiet or submissive; she traveled as an emissary to Russia and was one of the 11 keynote speakers at the Women's Summit for World Peace in Taiwan in 1995. To quote Ann, "I don't know how I did all those things, to tell you the truth. I've had so many varied interests. I have an insatiable appetite, a ferocity, just to know as much as I could know about everything – and if there's anything I can do to help somebody else, it is my pleasure."

That statement captures so much of Ann's character and motivation. She dearly loved her country that had been created at great costs and afforded her such incredible opportunities. She worked tirelessly to educate others on the Constitution and the unique privileges afforded to us by our Republic. She was part of the "Greatest Generation", and her passing is a poignant reminder of what that has meant for us all.

Ann had an unquenchable optimism. Her faith was strong as was her determination. One of her favorite scriptures was Romans 15:13. Most of all, Ann loved her family with uncommon zeal. She was proud of each member and left no doubt about her devotion to us all. We will dearly miss our family's Matriarch and one of the last southern Grand Dames.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Orlando
142 East Jackson Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Tribute Wall



“ I always enjoyed my conversations with Mrs. Murrah during lunch while at Culver. Bobby and horses were frequent topics.

Kristin Myers - August 12, 2019 at 07:26 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ann Ralls Freeman Murrah.



December 27, 2018 at 01:27 AM



“ Noel White lit a candle in memory of Ann Ralls Freeman Murrah



Noel White - December 27, 2018 at 12:55 AM



I will miss you Ann. It was privilege to have known you. Noel

Noel White - December 27, 2018 at 12:56 AM

NA

“ I first met Mrs. Murrah when I was 14 at Culver Summer Camps and she was my House Deck Mother for the summer. At the end of the camp she posted her address on her door and my Mom and Dad said to write her and thank her for such a wonderful summer. Little did I know that letter would lead to a life time of friendship for close to 40 years. I think back at the good times I had at the camp with her as my Deck Mother for 6 weeks each summer. Our friendship continued as we found different ways to visit with each other. We both lead different and busy lives, but we managed to always find time to write, talk or visit through the years. Our families would meet in DC, celebrate weddings, anniversaries and birthdays and attend meetings at various locations as members of the Descendant of the Signers of the Constitution, Ann was a special person whom I adored and treasured our friendship. I will remember most of all, the time Deck 6 finally won a banner during my last summer, Our deck had never won a banner before. She threw a party for us and we got to stay up late. No other deck had ever done that before for winning a banner!!!!

Thank you Ann for all the special memories.

Much Love,

Nancy

nancy - December 26, 2018 at 11:00 AM

JS

Ann was a very dear and special friend of my mother's at Camp DeSoto in the '40s. They kept their close friendship in Atlanta as they began their early married life which evolved into bringing their toddlers together. And living the life of the '60s in The south including horses, parties, the opera, entertaining, working and volunteering. Then I lost my mother and Ann most her best friend in 1967, but Ann kept a special love for me and my sisters all the years following and I am so grateful for our last time together in March, 2017, where we were able to talk about it all and share and remember. It was a gift for which I will never forget. Now you are freed from your body and are joining your Bob and my mother. We will miss you, but we know you are with us in spirit. Sending love to the Murrah Family and the Lovett Family. Love, Jill Steenhuis

Jill Steenhuis - December 28, 2018 at 03:36 PM