



Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar

December 15, 1962 - April 2, 2020

Amory—Melinda Ruth Tucker-Tazelaar, 57, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loved ones, on Thursday, April 2, 2020 in Tupelo, Mississippi. She was born in Amory on December 15, 1962 to the late Billy Wayne “Snuff” Tucker and Judy Dale Westbrook Sullivan.

Melinda graduated from Aberdeen High School. She then attended Itawamba Junior College and the University of Mississippi, where she was a member of both IJC’s All American Band and color guard as well as the Pride of the South Band. Melinda worked for Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz Law Firm in Washington, D.C. for over 20 years. Melinda worked as an executive assistant to Senator Howard Baker. She also served as a Courtroom Deputy Clerk for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. Melinda met her husband, Tom, in 1994, and they were happily married in 2005. An elegant, studious, and proper southern lady, she was well respected and loved by her co-workers. Melinda was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and a member of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Melinda was known for her kindness and selflessness throughout her community. She was family oriented and devoted to her husband, children, and siblings. In her free time, Melinda enjoyed antiques, gardening, and reading. She also spent much of her time studying genealogy and her family tree. A loving, caring individual, Melinda will be dearly missed by her loved ones. The memories she cultivated with her family and friends over her lifetime will live on in the hearts of her loved ones forever.

Melinda is survived by her husband, Tom Tazelaar, of Amory; her daughters, Heather Tazelaar (Nathan), Shannon Tazelaar (Tony); son, Andrew Stubblefield; sisters, Terri Lynn Tucker, Jennie Luker (Ray); brother, John David Tucker (Kathy); several aunts and uncles; and a host of beloved nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Melissa Carol Tucker.

A private family graveside will be held at New Hope Cemetery in Hatley. Honorary

pallbearers will include James Sundstrom, Dakota Sundstrom, Cody Shows, Jeremy Dubois, Camden Payne, Tucker Trull, and Cameron Trull. Honorary pallbearers will also include James Edward Riggan, James Kelly Doty, and Jeff Doty.

Due to concerns of COVID-19 there will be no public visitation. A Celebration of Life event for family and friends will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Shawna Gray Memorial Scholarship Fund at Christian Chapel Church of Christ in Hatley, located at 60206 Hatley Detroit Road, Amory, MS 38821.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at eepicklefuneralhome.com

Comments



“ I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of dear Melinda. Some of my fondest memories of her include sitting across from her desk with John Tuck in our old office on Pennsylvania Ave, the many great parties and receptions we put together, and our trip to Tokyo in 2001 to visit Senator Baker when he was Ambassador. She struck quite the image on the streets of Tokyo - tall, beautiful, red hair. There was a little old man who just pestered her when we were in Kyoto - I think I recalled he had to touch her hair!

Melinda was one of a kind and will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers to her family at this time.

Monica Noe Filyaw - May 16, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ I still think about you every day, I'll never forget. You are a role model, a wife, a mother. Most of all you are a blessing to all of us who love you.
HT

Heather Tazelaar - May 01, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ Mf Marcum lit a candle in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



mf marcum - April 05, 2020 at 10:37 PM



“ Carol Sloan sent a virtual gift in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



Carol Sloan - April 05, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ On behalf of the entire Baker Donelson family, we want to express our deepest condolences to your family. Melinda was a very important and special person to our Firm, and she will be so missed. This weekend, many in the Firm have shared sweet sentiments and stories about her. We hope that you know how much she meant to so many people. Blessings and prayers to you during this time.
-- Jennifer Keller, Baker Donelson COO

Jennifer Keller - April 05, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ That would mean so much to Melinda.

Michelle Gray - April 05, 2020 at 05:09 PM



“ I am so saddened to hear of the loss of Melinda. I worked with her at Baker Donelson in DC. Melinda was the essence of southern hospitality, grace and competence. She was caring and thoughtful. She was always perfectly formal with guests of Senator Baker, making them feel absolutely welcome, while setting a dignified tone befitting the fact that the visitor was about to meet with a great man. We rarely see that lovely sort of formality anymore. You did not just ‘pop in’ on the Senator-- Melinda was his guardian angel—heavy on the guardian part. You did not mess with Melinda!

With her colleagues, Melinda was a barrel of fun. She loved a good story and a little gossip. When telling a story, she had a way of modulating her voice to a soft, almost whispery level, that would draw you in and then would finish the story with a full-on drawl punctuated with an unforgettable laugh. That laugh! A big, loud, slow belting “ha....(pause pause pause) ha...(pause pause pause) ha. I could hear it ten doors down. It would make me smile just to hear it.

One evening late in the office I was working in and I could hear music from down the hall. It was the tape of Susan Boyle performing “I dreamed a dream” from her performance on Britain’s Got Talent. The video had just come out and it was still making the rounds as a viral performance. That evening, from down the hall I was hearing it over and over again—full volume. I mean -over and over again. So, I walked down the hall and there was Melinda, doing paperwork for the Senator, just listening to the video on a loop. She was apologetic because she had thought she was alone. I told her no need to apologize, I was just checking to make sure someone had not fallen asleep with their head on the play button. She said, “ I just looove this soooooo much”. So we watched and listened to the video start to finish and we both had a little tear at the end (ok –who didn’t when that first came out?!) We laughed at ourselves and then I asked her to leave it on as long as she liked. She left it on and we both worked to that song all evening. I never hear it without thinking of her.

That was Melinda, sweet and sentimental, a steel magnolia. To me, she was very much a part of the wonderful legacy of Senator Baker. I am very sorry she has left us so young.

Donna Thiel - April 07, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ Norma Searcy lit a candle in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



Norma Searcy - April 04, 2020 at 06:53 PM



“ Terri, so sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort see you through this time of morning. God bless, Mike Morris and family.

Mike Morris and family - April 04, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ This breaks my heart; I loved her and wish I could have known her more. I am forever grateful that the Lord placed her in my life. We are praying that our Lord will comfort the family as only He can.

Debbie & Mitch Stubblefield

DEBORAH L STUBBLEFIELD - April 04, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar.



April 04, 2020 at 09:08 AM



“ Larry & Brenda Ausborne lit a candle in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



Larry & Brenda Ausborne - April 04, 2020 at 01:12 AM



“ So sorry wish she could have had many more years being back home .

Barbara - April 04, 2020 at 04:24 AM



“ Tom and Family so sorry for your loss. She will be missed by all that knew her.
Thinking about you.

In Christian Love
Larry and Brenda Ausborne
Keigan And Kaleb Holley

Larry & Brenda Ausborne - April 04, 2020 at 01:11 AM



“ Robert and I are so sorry for your loss. Melinda was a very sweet and caring person.



Annette Dykes - April 03, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Melinda for over 18 years in the DC law firm. She was a great co-worker and just a delightful person. May she rest in peace. And may her family find comfort in the fact that she was very much loved at the law firm, and will be missed.

Betsy Taylor Calender - April 03, 2020 at 07:32 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your lost and sad that I can't be there. You are all in my prayers. I love you all. Gin Tibbett

Gin Tibbett - April 03, 2020 at 07:05 PM



“ Sending big hugs to all of you! Melinda was such a sweet soul.



Liz Tidwell - April 03, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ Kimball & Michelle Gray lit a candle in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



Kimball & Michelle Gray - April 03, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ Connie Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



Connie Armstrong - April 03, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ Dale And Beverly Howell lit a candle in memory of Melinda Ruth Tucker - Tazelaar



Dale and Beverly Howell - April 02, 2020 at 09:29 PM