

In Loving Memory



Terre Vardaman

August 23, 1949 - February 15, 2023

Crossgates Baptist Church
Brandon, Mississippi

3:30 pm February 20, 2023

Obituary

Mary Terrell Monroe Vardaman, age 73, passed away on February 15, 2023 at her home in Brandon, Mississippi following complications from a degenerative brain disorder known as frontotemporal dementia or FTD.

Terre, as she was known to most, was born on August 23, 1949 to Dan and Mary Monroe in Taylorsville, Mississippi. She graduated from Taylorsville High and went on to attend college at Baylor University in Waco, Texas obtaining her degree in primary education. While at Baylor, she met and married Gregg Vardaman and went on to have two children, Melanie and John before moving back to Brandon, Mississippi in 1980.

Upon returning to Mississippi, Terre began her career in the legal field, answering a wanted ad in the Clarion Ledger. She would later say she bluffed her way through her interview with Harold Barkley for a position in his office as a legal assistant – known back then as just a plain secretary – when in reality she knew nothing about how to be a secretary much less anything about the law. This innocuous start began a professional relationship and friendship with Harold and many others from the legal community in Mississippi that would span more than 40-years. Terre would go on to study law at Mississippi College while continuing to work. She graduated and sat for the bar in 1990, becoming an attorney in her own right, eventually leading to her appointment as a US Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee in 2000, retiring only two months prior to her passing.

As a single mother, Terre raised Melanie and John in Crossgates where they attended Brandon public schools and Crossgates Baptist Church. Her free time outside of work was nearly fully dedicated to taking them to and from all of their activities with the notable exception of her time spent volunteering in the church nursery, a calling very dear to her heart. She was also passionate about helping others, as she would say she had benefitted so much in life from the help of others when she had needed it the most. As Melanie and John have enjoyed learning through the stories of those she helped, her acts of service were most often done with little fanfare or awareness outside the person she was helping. Terre lived her life exemplifying her deep Christian faith, love of God and lover for her family and friends.

Terre was predeceased by her parents, Dan and Mary whom she loved deeply and lived near until their own death. She is survived by her daughter and son, Melanie (Craig) and John (Leigh), her grandchildren Reece, Duke, and Madi, and her sisters Dianne and Donna.

Terre's family has begun to create an online memorial where those that loved her can remember her life. They would like to invite you to visit, read more about Terre, and especially to upload your own story or memory by scanning this QR code.

