



Lou-Ida Marsh-Simmons

January 1, 1934 - August 7, 2022

Lou-Ida Simmons Marsh, 88, of Caldwell, Texas passed away peacefully on Sunday August 7, 2022.

Lou-Ida was born a New Year's baby in 1934 in Orange, Texas. Always sharing the story of her doctor being in a tuxedo, she was the last of three siblings born to her parents Byron Simmons and Lou-Ida Blades Simmons.

Graduating from Orange Stark High School, Lou-Ida attended Texas State College for Women in Denton gaining a degree in Speech Communications. After marrying James H. Marsh III, on August 27 1955, they moved to Caldwell where she began teaching four days after their wedding. Mom would often recall meeting her future husband when she was four years old. They met again when Jim became good buddies with her brothers during and around the Korean War.

As a teacher at Caldwell High School, Lou-Ida enjoyed her students and taught the subjects of speech, theatre, and journalism. She became the school's One-Act-Play Director and brought UIL Theatre Competitions into the school system. She was quite adept and learned quickly, honing her skills, and began advancing through several levels of competition; eventually earning two State titles with two State runner-ups.

Lou-Ida retired from teaching in 1984 and earned a Master's Degree in

Theatre History from the University of Texas. With this degree behind her, she set forth an illustrious career of judging plays, directing/critiquing at summer workshops, and working with teachers in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee as well as becoming renown in the State of Texas as an Educational Theatre Consultant.

As a founding member of the Texas Educational Theatre Association, she believed that theatre was first an educational tool and developed many workshops with that in mind. She was also a keen competitor and helped spin off the sister agency – “AO” – the Adjudicators’ Organization which provides information and guidelines for those adjudicating student competitions today. In her capacity, she met directors from across the state from public schools to elite colleges and universities.

After mom retired from public life, she kept up with many friendships she had made along the way including that of her college roommate as well as other retired contemporaries and former students. She developed a passion for the Houston Astros baseball team and hardly ever missed watching a game. She loved her pets (Gretchen & Hutch – the “beagles”) and her outside kitties (“Front Porch Cats”). She transformed the back yard into a haven for birds, squirrels, frogs, toads, bees, and the occasional o’possum. Her love of animals and nature passed through to her daughters.

Lou-Ida was predeceased by her husband, Jim Marsh in 2014, and is survived by two daughters (Melissa Anne Marsh and wife Kelly Timmons of San Antonio and Mollie Marsh of Caldwell). The family requests that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Caldwell Veterinary Clinic, 845 Presidential Corridor E Caldwell, Texas 77836, with a memo in the message line for “City Animals.”

Express condolences at PhillipsandLuckey.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Caldwell

404 W. Buck St.

Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 567-3232

phillipsandluckeyfh@yahoo.com

<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Lou Ida was my supervising teacher when I did my student teaching. She only had 2 and it was very special that I got to see her work. As a teacher, she was beyond fabulous and much loved by her students. I considered her a mentor that greatly impacted my work as a teacher. Years later, I got the privilege to compete against her at the one play contest and was overjoyed when she won. As an individual, Lou Ida was the loveliest of ladies to get to know. She had great impact on Texas theater and was highly respected. Rest in peace lovely lady.

Gailan Woods

Gailan Woods - May 28, 2023 at 06:04 PM

MS

“ I remember the one act play competition we entered my senior year. I was student director. We actually won at the regional level competition held at UT. Our play: Spreading the News. It was a great experience.

Michelle Brinkman Stevens - August 14, 2022 at 10:01 PM

CP

“ Mollie and Melissa,
So many wonderful memories of your precious Mom around the neighborhood and at the lake. She always was so sweet to me. I will be praying for you both.

Christie Perry - August 14, 2022 at 07:58 PM

TP

“ Lou-Ida was a wonderful mentor. Her greatest gift was sharing God's love for all. Thadious

Thadious Polasek - August 11, 2022 at 11:24 AM

SM

“ *What an amazing women. She inspired so many. When we won State, I received my letter jacket!! Yes I played sports but I was so proud to receive my jacket as a Thespian!!!*



Sandy Montgomery - August 11, 2022 at 10:37 AM

SM

“ *What wonderful memories I have of Lou Ida and the whole family! She played such a big role in my life, and I will forever be grateful for the lessons that I learned from her. Rest in peace, and praying for comfort for the whole family... Much love, Sandy Malone*

Sandy Malone - August 11, 2022 at 07:42 AM

ZB

“ *My deepest condolences goes out for you and your family during this difficult time. She had a beautiful soul, and just all around beautiful person. Her legend for theater will live on and memories, especially at Caldwell ISD. 🙏🙏*



Zanetta Jones Burns

Zanetta Burns - August 10, 2022 at 08:23 PM

TZ

“ We were fortunate enough to get to be the Marsh's neighbors for a couple of years - so many wonderful memories! Miss Lou-Ida had such a way with words. I can remember things she said from 20 years ago that make me laugh and still ring true. She was truly one of a kind. May God comfort you during this time.
Tammy Treybig Zgabay

Tammy Zgabay - August 10, 2022 at 12:14 PM

 Ed
Wetterman

“ A life well-lived. What a great lady, who truly shaped and touched the future.

Ed Wetterman - August 09, 2022 at 04:07 PM

SV

“ What a wonderful lady! She was an inspiration to all!

Scott Vernon - August 09, 2022 at 01:12 PM

JM

“ Melissa and Mollie, my thoughts and prayers are with y'all at this time of loss. Your mother was such a special and smart lady. God Bless, Regards,
Jeanie Worthington Marshall

Jeanie Worthington Marshall - August 09, 2022 at 12:29 PM

JM

Mollie and Melissa, I'm so sorry for your loss. Your mom was an amazing woman. She will be dearly missed.

Johnnie mynar - August 09, 2022 at 07:30 PM

JM

“ *Mollie and Missy: I have too many memories of your mom. Special person-special friend! Prayers for you.*

Joy Morton - August 09, 2022 at 10:10 AM

PG

“ *Melissa & Mollie - my deepest condolences on the loss of your mother .. will keep you in my thoughts*

Patsy Gonzales - August 08, 2022 at 11:57 PM