



MOIRA JUDAS SMITH

BELL BUCKLE – November 17, 2018, following a brief illness. Highly respected teacher of French language at The Webb School in Bell Buckle.

She was born in Lubbock, TX, into a U.S. Air Force family. A graduate of Ramey High School, Puerto Rico, she earned a B.S. Degree from the University of Alabama, where she was a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Mortar Board, Pan Hellenic Council, Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, and an honorary scholarship recipient in Spanish. She worked for two years in the French office of Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU) in Lyon, France. Upon her return, she earned a M.A. Degree in French and English at Middle Tennessee State University and was named a Peck Scholar before joining the Webb School faculty in 1981.

During her long career, she taught French at every level in Grades 6-12. Though afflicted with severe rheumatoid arthritis, she taught every class with an energy and verve that was the envy of her colleagues and the amazement of her students. She, along with her husband, Webb history teacher L.R. Smith, was leader and coordinator for numerous overseas travel/study tours, including three trips to the USSR, twelve student exchange/homestay trips to France, and two winter travel experiences in Quebec. She was a recipient of the French Academic Palm, an honor created by Napoleon and the oldest French non-military decoration, which today recognizes significant contributions of teachers through teaching, scholarship and leadership over the course of their careers. At the time of her death, she held the Chair of the Foreign Language Department as well as the Wilson “Woody” Sims, Sr. Chair in Foreign Language, the stipend from which she used to provide funds for students desiring to travel overseas.

She was utterly devoted to her profession, her family, and her school. She had a passionate love of the French language, making sure that her daughter Caroline was perfectly bilingual from the age of two, and that her tongue-tied husband knew enough to feed himself and find the bathroom while on their many trips to France. She often noted that, “There’s nothing in the world I’d rather do than go up that hill every day and teach French at the Webb School and take Webb students to France.”

Her love of French was rivaled only by her passion for her Paso Fino horses and the farm she inherited from her parents. She was an active member of the Paso Fino Horse Association, having served as National Show Secretary, as a board member, and most recently as regional delegate from the Kentucky PFHA. So dedicated was she to promoting and celebrating the breed that she managed to convince her family and friends to ride with her several times in the Nashville Christmas Parade. She rode to multiple championship victories over the years and loved to have riders young, old, and in between come to the farm and ride.

Preceded in death by her parents, Col. (Ret.) Maxwell V. Judas and Jane Beach Judas. Survived by her husband, L. R. Smith; beloved daughter, Caroline Pryor (Ryan) of Memphis, TN; stepson, Bill Smith (Elizabeth) of Houston, TX; brother, Col. (Ret.) Robert Judas (Suzanne) of Atlantic Beach, FL; two nieces and one nephew. Interment and memorial service will take place in Spring, 2019. Arrangements through Doak-Howell Funeral Home, Shelbyville, TN. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to The Webb School Annual Fund.