



Dessa Crawford

July 28, 1941 - December 5, 2007

Dessa Crawford Ph.D., formerly Dessa Ewing and wife of the late Henry Kobsa, of Phoenixville, passed away at her home on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 66 after a long struggle with A.L.S. (Lou Gehrig's Disease).?Born in Texas to the late W. Jack and Odessa (Barnes) Crawford, she obtained her Doctorate from the University of Texas in Austin.? She moved to the Philadelphia area in 1976 and taught humanities at Delaware County Community College in Media, PA for 23 years.?

She retired early as a Professor Emerita to travel and spend time with her family, and had visited such locations as Vienna, France, Greece and even Antarctica, until her disease progression slowed her abilities.?Dessa is also a widely-published poet (including the Evening Phoenix), and has won many national awards for her poetry.? She is survived by her children Kelly M., wife of John Haile, of South Coventry and Scott Ewing of Phoenixville, her beloved grandsons, Elliot, Brandon and Dylan Haile, and a brother John Crawford, of Nebraska.? She will be sorely missed by her family and her many close friends.?

Family and Friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service, planned to celebrate Dessa's life, on Tuesday at 5 PM in Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Main Street at Fifth Avenue, Phoenixville, PA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Assoc. (www.ALSPhiladelphia.or

g) to support research and save other lives.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ I got to know Dessa over the years at the West Chester Poetry Conference, and she was a great friend. We used to share Texas stories, and once she totally surprised in Houston, where my wife and I ran into her in the lobby of Wortham Center at a performance of the Houston Grand Opera. I heard she was ill this summer, and we exchanged emails. I am very sorry for your family's loss.

Sam Gwynn
Beaumont, TX

Sam Gwynn - rsgwynn1@cs.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM

JJ

“ I will always remember the good times we shared in our childhood. Those Christmas Dinner's where she made my brother, Bill, spill his tea on MaMaw's table and take no blame. I'm sure she was as much fun in her later life as she was then. Our prayers are with you during this time.

Cousin,
Jim Harrison

Jim Harrison Family - jimhar8@aim.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM

TT

“ *Dessa and I once worked together at Delaware County Community College in Media, PA. She was always a bundle of energy-- enthusiastic about teaching and excited about the humanities. It doesn't surprise me that she was also a poet...she was tuned in to the world around her. Years later I ran into her at an art exhibit in Historic Yellow Springs...what a fitting location to share remembrances! God speed, Dessa.*

Tom Lutz - Tom@TomLutz.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM

EE

“ *I will always remember our fun visits that hold so many, many memories. You were my Maiden of Honor and I was your Maid of Honor in each of our weddings. Cousins are Special growing up together! My prayers are will you!*

Elaine Burgss Ashcroft

Elaine Burgess Ashcroft - elaineba@netdot.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM

PB

“ *What I always loved about Dessagene was her laughter and her free spirit. She taught me that times of trial can be handled with grace. Her grandsons were her pride and joy, along with Kelly and Scott. Barnum was her haven. I celebrate her life and our close relationship. I'm glad that she is no longer in pain. I will miss her.*

Patti Harrison Brooks - July 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM

AA

“ I just learned of Dessa's passing and I am shocked and deeply, deeply saddened. She was a good, good person, who did me and others many kindnesses. I remember her vividly. We knw each other well nearly four years and spent happy times in different places in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas. It seems yesterday I attended her mother's funeral. I will never forget Dessa.

abraham A. Davidson - adavidso@temple.edu - July 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM