

SHERRY JANE (LAGERGREN) MURRAY
December 23, 1942 - July 11, 2014



Sherry Lagergren Murray, of Mandarin, passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 11, 2014, after a battle with cancer. She was 71 years old.

Sherry was born in Pensacola, FL, on December 23, 1942, to loving parents Axel (Buster) and Dorothy Lagergren. She graduated from the University of Florida in 1963. In 1964 she met Richard Murray, who was training for Naval Aviation in Pensacola; they were wed on December 26 and were married for 42 years.

Sherry was preceded in death by Rick in 2007, for whom she was the primary caregiver during his 9-year struggle with ALS. Their first tour brought them to Jacksonville, where Sherry taught English at Cedar Hills, JEB Stuart, and Forrest. A lifelong learner and gifted instructor, her infectious love of books, art, and the English language rubbed off on anyone who knew her, most especially her children and grandchildren. Trips to museums and musicals, chats about paintings and poetry, and making the most of each and every teachable moment formed the fabric of daily life in her home.

After serving 25 years as a Navy wife in such locales as Virginia, Hawaii, and her beloved Annapolis, MD, she returned to Jacksonville in 1995. Following her husband's passing, Sherry became increasingly involved in community service; her tireless dedication and generous spirit were an inspiration to many. She served on

the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission and the boards of Leadership Jacksonville, Mal Washington Youth Foundation, and Senior Life Foundation. She was also a member of ALS Regional Council, Women's Giving Alliance, Friends for PACE, and DAR. She particularly loved mentoring high school students through Take Stock in Children and relished her role in Picture People, an art appreciation program for elementary school students.

Sherry is survived by her brother, James Lagergren; her daughter Allison and her children Katelyn, Ryan, and Aaron; her son Scott and his children Logan and Liana; and her son Mark and his son Abraham. She was fond of saying that her finest accomplishments were her 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 26, at 2 P.M. at New Grace Church in Fleming Island. In lieu of flowers, remembrances to either of Sherry's favorite causes would be greatly appreciated. Please write Sherry Murray Memorial Fund in the memo line. Mal Washington Youth Foundation 1096 W. 6th Street Jacksonville, FL 32209 ALS Association Florida Chapter 3242 Parkside Center Circle Tampa, FL

SHERRY'S COMMENTS IN OUR 50TH REUNION CLASS BOOKLET

After graduating from UF, I returned to PHS to teach English until I married a Naval flight officer. For the next 25 years, we went where the Navy sent us, raised a family and settled in Annapolis, MD. Eventually we retired in Jacksonville, FL, and then faced our biggest challenge. My husband was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), which eventually took his life in 2007. Then six months later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. A few months later, my daughter was in a life threatening biking accident. Now all is well with me – and her. My life is full with family and friends who have been there for me. I spend my time playing tennis, going to yoga, participating in book clubs, travelling, volunteering, giving to the community via scholarships in my husband's memory, and enjoying time with my loved ones. Each day, I am thankful for all my blessings. Shakespeare's quote, "Rich are the uses of adversity," defines my life.

Sherry described herself as "Navy Wife, mother, grandmother, retired English Teacher. In the section to list Great-Grandchildren, her comment was "Oh, God, I'm not that old!!"