



Alyce Marechal O'Brien

May 16, 1925 - January 10, 2022

****Memorial Mass Scheduled****

Alyce Marechal O'Brien passed away on Monday, January 10, 2022 in Covington, Louisiana at the age of 96. She was born in New Orleans on May 16, 1925 to Leandre Marechal and Carmen Valenzuela Marechal and was a resident of Covington for over 60 years.

Alyce is survived by four children, Christine Lozes (Bill), Elizabeth McCormack, Michael O'Brien, and David O'Brien (Lillian); eight grandchildren, Wesley O'Brien, Christopher O'Brien, Andrew Preble, Maegan O'Brien Hyde, William Preble, Brian Lozes, Allison Lozes, and Sean O'Brien; five great-grandchildren, Sonia, Emmett, Alea, Jacob, and Nico O'Brien (plus two on the way); her brother, Paul Marechal (a Trappist monk known as Brother Elias); and son-in-law, John Preble. She is also survived by many other relatives, friends, and caretakers who were part of her extended family.

Alyce was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Charles O'Brien; daughter, Ann O'Brien; brother, Rene Marechal; and son-in-law, Noel McCormack.

Alyce graduated with a BA from Newcomb College and was a phenomenal English and Spanish teacher at St. Scholastica Academy for over 30 years. She had a great love of life and infectious laugh and was a voracious reader and fabulous cook well into her 90s. We will all miss her terribly.

In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations to the St. Scholastica Academy Scholarship Fund, 122 South Massachusetts St., Covington, LA 70433, <https://www.ssaca.d.org/donate> or the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, 2625 Highway 212 SW, Conyers, Georgia, <https://www.trappist.net/support/donate>.

A memorial mass is scheduled on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel on the SSA campus, 122 S. Massachusetts St., Covington, LA.

The family welcomes springtime colors to celebrate Alyce's cheerful spirit.

E. J. Fielding Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. The family invites you to share thoughts, fond memories, and condolences online at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home Guest Book at www.ejfieldingfh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

APR **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel At St. Scholastica Academy
122 S. Massachusetts St.
Covington, LA 70433

Tribute Wall

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Betsy - April 09 at 05:46 PM

MG

“ Alyce was a remarkable person, smart, kind, clever and with a wonderful sense of humor. She was the quintessential teacher and piqued my curiosity by exposure to many different types of literature during my high school years at SSA. In recent years, I enjoyed visiting with her and was always amazed that she retained her clear thinking and great sense of humor well into her nineties! I say goodbye with her smiling face in mind.

Martha Scott Gruning

Martha Scott Gruning - February 04 at 02:08 PM

MF

“ Educator of Our Lifetime.
And, Mrs. O'Brien would have reminded me that that sentence fragments are unacceptable.

Marie Annette Fuselier - January 28 at 09:35 PM

MF

She would have also told me to proofread my final version.

Marie Annette Fuselier - January 28 at 09:37 PM

CW

“ I cannot add much more to what has already been said, as so many have expressed what I also feel, but I will anyway! Mrs. O'Brien is an integral part of the many memories I have of SSA. She was one of the best teachers I had; her sincere enthusiasm for English literature and writing was contagious. I still remember her standing at the podium in her classroom reading to us and then pacing in front of the room in her skirt and loafers as she attempted to explain grammatical intricacies to our distracted self absorbed minds! Her patience was amazing and I thank God for her.

May God give His comfort, grace and mercy to her family at this time.

In His Grace,
Celeste Miltenberger Williams

Celeste Williams - January 22 at 04:48 PM

SS

“ Sending my deepest heartfelt condolences to the family , may GOD bring Comfort and Peace ,
Mrs Alyce was a very special , kind and unique woman , she touched my heart in so many ways ,
I enjoyed the time we spent together cooking, reading , talking & eating She will always remain near and dear to my heart ...
She is truly a Blessing to me and so many others ..
She will be missed terribly ...
Rest In Peace Sweet Angel ...

Susan Salinas - January 22 at 04:02 PM

JD

“ I remember Alyce as a woman who was gifted with a love for life and a laugh that was infectious. These God given gifts of hers touched countless lives. My prayers are with each of you, her loved ones. Jean Dunn (aka Sr. Mary Martin)

Jean M. Dunn - January 22 at 02:07 PM

CG

“ *What a loss! I have many fond memories of Mrs. O'Brien, especially that wonderful laugh. We had great times in her house and around the Chalaron's pool with her laughter an always welcome presence.*
When David and I were in ninth grade for some reason we were struggling in our Spanish class at St. Paul's. She tutored us in her classroom at SSA, I think once. Her great humor and optimism were enough to show me and David that we could "get it." And we did!
She is intrinsically tied to my remembrances of the Covington of my childhood of bikes, shade on narrow streets, touch football, the Bogue Falaya, St. Peter's Church with Mr. O'Brien reading the epistle, and so much more.
Condolences to David, Michael, Chrissie, Betsy, and John.
Chris Garcia

Chris Garcia - January 22 at 12:37 PM

MW

“ *I am deeply sorry to learn of Alyce's passing. She was my favorite teacher, and was like a second mother to me and several other SSA girls. She inspired me to make my living as a writer, and later as a literature and journalism teacher. She was a gifted teacher with a great sense of humor, and a true friend. My sincere sympathy to all of the O'Brien family, especially Christine, Elizabeth, Michael, and David.*

Mrs H B Willis (Marcia Westerfield) - January 20 at 03:08 PM

JE

“ *in loving memories of an exceptional lady,from jean-luc, belgium*

jean-luc - January 19 at 08:29 PM

VC

“ *Ms. O'Brien taught me English in the 70s. I majored in English at LSU in part because of her influence. I am lawyer who has practiced for almost 40 yrs. I am still benefiting from what i learned about writing from Ms. O'Brien. She corrected our grammar with an affectionate laugh and encouraged us to be analytical readers.*

To this day the best teacher I ever had. I feel lucky that she touched my life.

Vicki Crochet - January 18 at 04:08 PM

JC

“ Although it has been a long time since I sat in Mrs. O'Brien's English class, I have never forgotten her as an outstanding teacher and person. I have thought of her fondly over the years and wondered how she could always be calm and offer a solution to whatever problem was presented by a group of teenaged girls full of drama. She was a terrific example to me. My deepest and sincere condolences to Chrissie and the rest of the family.

Joanie Ellis Cox - class 1970

Joanie Cox - January 18 at 03:27 PM

 Elizabeth Ballas

“ Senora O'Brien has remained and will remain in my memories as one of my favorite teachers at SSA. She made Spanish class enjoyable, such a personality! Sending my condolences and may God grant Comfort and Peace to the family.

🙏❤️Elizabeth Mentel Ballas -class of 1978 🕊️

Elizabeth Ballas - January 18 at 01:30 PM

MP

“ So very sorry to her of her passing . Loved having Mrs O'Brien for Spanish at SSA in the early 80's. She was funny and entertaining. I still remember some of the Spanish lessons she taught us! Rest In Peace Senora O'Brien

Marla Parker - January 18 at 12:40 PM

MH

“ My heartfelt condolences are sent to Alyce's family as I remember the happy years at St. Scholastica Academy with her during the 70's. Special sentiments are sent to her brother and my friend, Br. Elias Marechal. I am sorry for your and the family's personal loss,
What a full, remarkable life she led and was so loved! She certainly made her mark at the Academy and with her students through her outstanding service as a beloved teacher, advocate and friend.
God bless you and comfort you.
Maris Pravata Helfrich, Galveston, TX. (aka Sr. Maris Stella, OSB)

Maris P. Helfrich - January 17 at 09:25 PM

DC

“ Mrs. O'Brien was one of my favorite teachers at SSA. I have always remembered her smile and her love of teaching me how to be better writer. I know the skills that I learned helped me to succeed in college and in my business career. She introduced me to a broader world with the writings of Faulconer and her stories of Truman Capote. My thoughts and prayers are with the O'Brien family.

Deborah Philips Close - January 17 at 05:30 PM

JC

“ Mrs. O'Brien was a wonderful teacher. She taught us so much but she made it fun. She engaged us, challenged us, read to us and laughed with us. I still sometimes think of her or her class when I am reading or trying to write. We were all so lucky to have her as our teacher and our friend while we were at SSA. May she rest in peace.

Julie Rodrigue Carbo

Julie Rodrigue Carbo - January 17 at 11:12 AM

SO

“ The news of Alyce's death has reached me here in Kansas, and I send my sympathy to all her family. I was on the faculty and in administration for some ten of the years Alyce served at St. Scholastica Academy, and I so enjoyed her. She brought her kind and joyful attitude into the classroom. It was, no doubt, part of the reason for her wonderful success as a teacher. That so many of our students excelled in college can be attributed in large part to her.
Please be assured of my prayers and those of the Benedictine community here for all of you. May she rest in peace!
God bless all of you.
Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB

Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB - January 16 at 07:56 PM

KK

“ Alyce was indeed a wonderful person, full of laughter & a great teacher! I so remember her contagious laugh & her always upbeat spirit. She was loved by her students and those of us who taught with her at SSA! My prayers for her family
are that the memories you hold in your hearts will ease the sadness felt by her absence
in your daily lives. May God's grace sustain you! Sincerely, Kathleen Busch
(AKA: Sister
Kathleen). Poplarville, Ms.

Kathleen Busch (Sister Kathleen) - January 16 at 04:23 PM

DK

“ Prayers for the entire family as God holds the pieces of your broken hearts.
Wonderful teacher. Sincerely, Debbie



Debbie Koepp - January 15 at 01:24 PM

RA

“ One of a kind . Her passing leaves a big hole in our hearts . Condolences to all of the family. May her memory be for a blessing.

Renee Alterman - January 15 at 12:13 PM

LS

“ A charming lady with a great attitude on life

lynette soules - January 15 at 12:06 PM

PB

“ Another Grand Dame has left this earth❤️

Peggy Baldwin - January 15 at 11:04 AM

DC

“ Oh my goodness, we've lost a greatlady! She was the best teacher ever! She taught me English, Creative Writing and Spanish and was so much fun, engaging her students in creative ways. And what a sense of humor. She always greeted us with a warm smile and kind words. Loved her - 100% great memories of her! It is so wonderful that you were able to share her life for such a long time, and I know you will miss her greatly.

Dianne Canik - January 15 at 11:00 AM

CM

“ My aunt Alyce was the sweetest person I've met. She was so easy to talk to and she always had a comforting words to say if I needed her. I loved the celebrations of thanksgiving Christmas and Easter at her house. She would brighten up a room when she arrived. My memories with her are wonderful. I love you aunt Alyce. Heaven has received a gift.

Claudia Marechal - January 15 at 09:54 AM

LB

“ One of my favorite things was when Mrs O'Brien would read to us in English class. She taught us how to "hear" the written word. I still "hear" the words...
Love always,
Leslie Bogran

Leslie Bogran - January 15 at 08:52 AM

ER

“ Dear Alyce was a wonderful friend and I will always remember her with great respect.
May the soul of Alyce rest in the company of all the angels and saints in Paradise, but above all in the Divine Presence and in the hands of Mary The Most Blessed Virgin.

Emilio Rafael - January 14 at 06:48 PM

SB

“ She was one of a kind, Will miss her dearly.

Stella Brule - January 14 at 06:30 PM

MG

“ I am so sorry for your loss! What a treasure: Senora O'Brien!

Marianne Ducros Gonwa - January 14 at 07:53 AM

DM

Darnell Broussard Mitchell
was a caregiver and became
good friend will always 💕

Darnell Broussard Mitchell - January 14 at 06:55 PM

AC

“ Andree Champagne lit a candle in memory of Alyce Marechal O'Brien



Andree Champagne - January 14 at 07:28 AM

EA

“ *Most wonderful English teacher!*
Sincere condolences.
Beth Schlenker Abrams

Elizabeth Abrams - January 13 at 03:35 PM