

Phyllis Dominguez

Phyllis Sue Hurst was born July 6, 1943, in Oklahoma City to Clarence and Olga (Edon) Hurst. Phyllis graduated from Oklahoma City's John Marshall High School and received her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University and her masters from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Phyllis Hurst met Michael Dominguez while working for the US Postal Service. They married on September 3, 1974 at St. James Church in Oklahoma City and later welcomed their daughter Mary. Phyllis and Mike Dominguez celebrated forty years of marriage.

Choosing a career in education, Phyllis taught high school band and special education. She also worked as a volunteer to teach adult reading. After becoming a Master Gardener, she volunteered her time and expertise to the Oklahoma State Extension Service.

She was a performing musician for fifty-five years and said she felt blessed to play French horn. She played everything from symphonic, opera, and brass band to church music in addition to singing in church choirs and directing a church choir. As a grandmother, she delighted in horn-kazoo duos with 3½-year-old Vivian and said 1-year-old Evelyn could keep a good tempo on the rattle. Thanks to the granddaughters, Phyllis got to read wonderful stories out loud, especially Dr. Seuss.

An award-winning writer, Phyllis enjoyed reading detective fiction, newspapers, history, P.G. Wodehouse, and cartoon strips, and loved to watch vintage Looney Tunes cartoons. She saw her letters and articles in print and wrote a novel. More of her work was published in three anthologies: *Braced Against the Wind, A Centennial Celebration of Oklahoma Stories*, and *Beads on a String – Peace, Joy, and Love*. She had been a long-time member of Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc., Oklahoma City Writers, Inc., and Wordwrights-OKC Christian Writers.

Phyllis Dominguez – musician, writer, educator, master gardener, loving wife and mother – imprinted memories on the hearts of family and friends. She once said she was grateful for country, church, family, friends, poets, inspirational writers, a Jack Russell terrier and an audacious housecat.

Of all her accomplishments, raising her daughter gave Phyllis the most joy and contentment, and nothing delighted her more than spending time with her granddaughters and teaching them music.

Phyllis Sue Dominguez passed away in Oklahoma City on Thursday, February 5, 2015, after battling an illness for several months. She was seventy-one – preceded in death by her parents.

Phyllis is survived by her husband Michael, of the home; their daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Brent Schartung, and granddaughters, Vivian and Evelyn, all of Plano, Texas, and sister, Anne Morris, of Oklahoma City.

Barbara Shepherd