

**DALE RHEA STAPP OBT.**

b. 23 April 1958, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN  
d. 19 May 2012, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN  
Buried; Cedar Grove Cemetery, Athens, McMinn Co., TN  
Father: **Alfred Dale Stapp**  
Mother: **Lela Rhea Riggs**

**COOKEVILLE**-Graveside Services for Miss Dale Rhea Stapp, 54 of Cookeville will be Wednesday, May 23 at 1 P.M. C.S.T. at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens, TN. Bro. Ogle Wattenbarger will officiate.



Miss Stapp died Saturday, May 19, 2012 in Cookeville Regional Medical Center. She was born April 23, 1958 in Cookeville to Lela Rhea Riggs Stapp of Cookeville and the late Alfred Dale Stapp.

Dale was a 1981 graduate of Tennessee Tech University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She had served as Librarian at Jackson County Library in Gainesboro and was currently serving as Assistant Director and Children's Librarian at Putnam County Library in Cookeville.

She was a member of the Putnam County Clean Commission and Friends of the Putnam County Library.

She was also a Girl Scout Leader in Putnam County for many years.

Her family includes 2 sisters and a brother-in-law Bonnie Stapp of Livingston, Penny Grace (Jeff) Dean of Ocoee, FL, niece Katie Grace Dean.

Family will receive friends Tuesday from 4 to 7 P.M. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Putnam County Library, 50 East Broad St. Cookeville, TN 38501.

**REMEMERING DALE:**

By Clay Robertson

As many of you know, we recently lost our friend, colleague, and occasional den mother, Dale Stapp.

Most of us have a Dale story or two. I thought I'd take a few moments to share some with you. "Her smile was always welcoming, not only to the children, but to me and my family when we came to perform. I remember a few years back when my car wouldn't start after a performance. Dale was so concerned, she even stayed late to make sure that I had everything that I needed." – *Kevin Kidd*.

"Dale always encouraged me to be better – in life and at work.

I could go to her with anything, and she would tell me what I needed to hear, not what I wanted to hear. I didn't always appreciate that at first, but eventually I came to realize that she was right.

“She was there for me in times of emotional (and financial) hardship. She was more than generous towards not only me but other in so many ways.

“Dale pushed me to going back to school, and when I could not continue, made me promise her I would go back. That is a promise I intend to keep. She also continually told me that I needed to marry Luke, because he is a good, hardworking guy who loves me so much. When I finally accepted his proposal, she was overjoyed. I'm so sad that she will not be there on my wedding day. She was a huge part of my life.

“She loved my boys, and always asked how they were doing. One of the last things she asked of me was to bring her pictures of them to the hospital. Aidan loved to visit her in her office, and would often barge right in, but she never seemed to mind.

“Dale had wonderful ideas for programming for the children and was a great planner. She was my right hand at the library for many years. She was always there to offer suggestions and help in all aspects of the library. She loved to read and understood the importance of exposing children to books at an early age making her a very good children's librarian. Her interest and concern for her staff made working at the library a joy. She was always upbeat and she made you feel good about yourself. She will be missed at the library and in the community.” – *Diane Duncan*.

“Dale is the reason that I went back to school. Ever since I started working at the PLC, she has harassed me (in a good way) to go to school and earn a degree. It took five years of her trying to convince me that I'm smart enough.

A happy Dale memory...one day, I believe last year, she called Sarah and I into her office to tell us that we'd been working really hard and that she really appreciated it, and gave us gift cards to Olive Garden. It was totally out of the blue and really touching. Over the years there have been a few times that Dale would just give me a little something, just because she thought I would like it. And she was a great person to go to for advice on just about anything.” – *Emily Sciacca*.

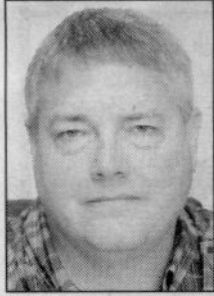
“Dale was a mentor and a friend. I will miss her wit, caring spirit, and smiling face. She always made time for anyone who needed her.” – *Stacie Johnson*.

“I realize that it may sound strange, but I was also the beneficiary of the same qualities that Dale displayed with her staff. When I arrived in Cookeville in September 2012, Dale did everything she could to help me get off to a good start as director. She made my transition here very easy.

“Dale loved to eat out. When morning meetings ran into the lunch hour, she and I would go to lunch. When she finished eating, Dale would take her leftovers (and anyone else’s) home for supper. She claimed that she used to take the sauce containers that various restaurants use home, too, and return them on her next visit.

“to her family, she was always “Missy,” but to the world, she was “Dale.”

**At the  
Library**



Clay  
Robertson

Dale always thought it was funny when people were confused by her name. She said, “Haven’t hey ever heard of Dale Arden (from “Flash Gordon”) or Roy Rogers and Dale Evans?”

When I went to visit her in the hospital, the Information Desk directed me to Mr. Stapp’s room.

“You might not have realized it, but Dale was a pretty good softball player in her younger days. She was always interested in my daughters’ sports.

“Dale loved to read mysteries. She read so many though that she complained, “Just how many murders is a small-town caterer likely to see?” - *Clay Robertson.*

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 20 May 2012, pg. C-4

\*Read more about Putnam Co., TN History at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>