



Natalia Raigorodsky Parris

July 28, 1929 - August 28, 2018

Natalia Raigorodsky Parris, 89, of Muncy Valley, died Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at The Highlands Care Center, Laporte.

Born July 28, 1929 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, she was a daughter of the late Paul M. and Ethel M. (McCaleb) Raigorodsky. Her husband of 16 years, James L. Parris, preceded her in death on April 3, 2003.

A native of Oklahoma, Natalia grew up in Texas and composed her first musical piece at the age of eight. With the onset of World War II, she was relocated to Maine, and attended the Oak Grove School. She graduated cum laude from both Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, in 1946, and Barnard College in 1952, and went on to attain her master's degree in composition and music history from American University in 1963, the same year she completed her first symphony – "Symphony No. 1." Since 1990, the composition has been performed by the Chattanooga Symphony, the Washington Civic Symphony, and the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra.

In 1978, Natalia began a lifelong commitment of restoration and preservation of what is now known as Keystone Mountain Park Trust, located on a mountain top, above the village of Muncy Valley. For over 40 years, she would call this tranquil setting home. The beautiful surroundings enabled her to find sanctuary for a deeply spiritual life, and was an inspiration for her musical composition.

Before settling in Muncy Valley, Natalia was active in the D.C. arts scene, working in arts broadcasting and as a newspaper music critic, serving on arts boards, and composing her work. She has written nearly 155 compositions including secular chamber works and sacred solos and organ preludes used in churches in the United States, Canada, and Central America. Her music has also been played in the State Department, the National Gallery of Arts, and in churches and music halls throughout the world.

Natalia was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist for over 50 years and was a

full time Christian Science Practitioner for more than 20 years. She was devoted to her faith in the one omnipotent God good, and following the teachings of Christ Jesus.

Surviving her are a son, Charles H. Heimsath V of Austin, Texas; three grandchildren, Serena Heimsath Heath, Charles H. Heimsath VI and Kathryn L. Haynes; and a great-grandson, Liam Heath.

In addition to her parents and husband, Natalia was preceded in death by a son, Peter R. Heimsath.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 22, at Celestial Views Chapel, 66 Keystone Mountain Park Rd., Muncy Valley, with Nathan Bowan officiating. Burial was held privately in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sonestown.

The family will provide the flowers and suggest memorial contributions be made to: Keystone Mountain Park Trust, 66 Mountain Park Rd., Muncy Valley, PA 17758.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McCarty-Thomas Funeral Home, Hughesville.

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

22
Celestial Views Chapel
66 Keystone Mountain Park Rd., Muncy Valley, PA, US, 17758

Comments



“ The Williamsport Symphony Orchestra sends its sincere condolences to the family. Natalia was a lovely woman and an accomplished composer. She will be dearly missed by the music world.

Janet Harris - September 24, 2018 at 02:27 PM



“ Tasha, as we affectionately knew her, was a huge part of our lives growing up in Muncy Valley. She employed most of our family at one time or another. The legacy she began in Sullivan County will live on in Keystone Mountain Park. My deepest condolences to the family.

Penny Dougherty - September 17, 2018 at 10:14 AM



“ My deepest condolences. Met her while enjoying some weekends at the Stone Cottage. We had several beautiful discussions about life. So glad me and my daughter were able to meet such a lovely lady!

Julie Sholtis - September 17, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ A wonderful woman with a heart of gold! She will definitely be missed by me & my family! Such a great woman to be around & to listen to her stories... Our condolences to her family...

Candice - September 21, 2018 at 08:25 PM



“ Tasha was my friend for many years. We worked on her music and had such fun times. I worked as her music editor. We started with music that was hand copied in Washington DC. Note by note and part by part. Tedious. Later, it was all done by computer. So much easier.

My parents lived in Broad Horizons and that is where we met in the 1960's.

I loved Tasha very much.

Janice Masotti

Janice Masotti - April 22, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ Sending my condolences to Natalia's family.

Cassie Blair - May 03, 2020 at 11:48 PM