



Miriam Rye Doktor

March 22, 1945 - July 16, 2016

Miriam Rye Doktor, 71, of Sanford, Florida passed away peacefully on Sunday evening, July 17, at 11:15 p.m.

Miriam, along with her sister Valerie Rye Weld, owned and operated Miriam & Valerie's School of Dance Arts (S.O.D.A.) in Sanford for the past 51 years. Considered a ballet mistress of note, "Miss" Miriam was admired by students, families, and colleagues across the country.

Miriam was born in Norfolk, VA to Corrine and Walter Rye. She was raised and studied dance in Portsmouth, VA, Columbia, SC, and Jacksonville, FL. She is survived by husband, Ken Doktor, sister, Valerie Weld, and niece, Natalie Cozzani.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, at the First Presbyterian Church of Sanford located at 301 S. Oak Avenue.

Ken and Valerie are requesting that those attending please wear a S.O.D.A. shirt if you have one (no worries if you don't).

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the attention of the First Presbyterian Church for a special gift designated by the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Sanford
301 S. Oak Street
Sanford, FL 32771

Tribute Wall

VP

“ To Valerie and family----I literally just found out about Miriam's passing!! I would've been there to support and do whatever needed and am still there for you! I have not seen my students who attend your studio or I would've heard for sure!! I am now working on Winterfest 2017 which is Fri and Sat Feb 3-4. We always look forward to having your studio perform on Friday at 7pm and hope that you still will be able to Feb 3. I cannot imagine seeing you all with out Miriam but I guess she will always be with us---right? She was Beautiful, Amazing and Talented!! I have known her for so long and just cannot imagine not seeing her again. I will miss her soooo much! My heart and prayers are with you and I now understand why I have not heard from you and have had difficulty reaching you. Let me know if there is ANYTHING I can do and call me when you can. Love you all!!. Valerie Pernice 407-929-0377 valerie.pernice@att.net

Valerie Pernice - October 01, 2016 at 09:10 AM



“ Miss. Miriam was one of the strongest women in my Life growing up. I was never going to be a Prima Ballerina however my passion for teaching came from both M&V. The kindness Miss Miriam showed to me I am unable to put into words. Although over the years our paths have been in different directions the lessons I learned from her both on stage and off shaped the women I have become. Strong and Independent. I will always Love and miss you. FAREWELL My Friend and Mentor.



Jolane Meinke Brown - July 24, 2016 at 10:40 PM

SM

“ Ken, George, Valerie and family. So sorry to hear of Miriam's passing. My condolences to you all. Best wishes at this difficult time.
Scott Milsom

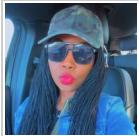
Scott Milsom - July 23, 2016 at 12:42 PM

ZW

“ Ms. Miriam's passing will definitely create a void. Her passion and intensity were beyond question. She recognized talent, appreciated effort, inspired devotion and continually sought perfection. I know her commitment to dance and art will continue to evolve.

Zack Weathers.

Zack Weathers - July 23, 2016 at 10:13 AM



“ Condolences to the family...Ms. Miriam was a sweet, loving, beautiful lady. She loved and cared about her family so much every 4 weeks faithfully she would come in to get a haircut at my hair salon and she would always have something nice to say about someone in her family Ms Miram will be truly missed...
Love, Von
from Finesse By Von Hair Salon

Vontae McClain - July 23, 2016 at 09:16 AM

CS

“ *What a wonderful lady.*

Christine Stickney - July 23, 2016 at 05:58 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Miriam Rye Doktor.*



July 22, 2016 at 01:06 PM



“ *The Weathers Family. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Miriam Rye Doktor.*



The Weathers Family. - July 21, 2016 at 08:05 AM



“ *Miss Miriam will always be in my heart. No matter what she was going through or if she has a rough day, she always thought of others first. She would always send me a thinking of you card every month. I do not have all of those cards anymore, but I do have a few of them and they will be cherished and put in the Bible that belonged to my Grandma as they will be very sacred to me. My very sincere condolences go to Ken, Valerie and the whole family. We love you Miss Miriam and will be missed very much.*



Debby McNichols

Debby McNichols - July 20, 2016 at 07:01 PM

DW

“ *Donna Weichert sent a virtual gift in memory of
Miriam Rye Doktor*



Donna Weichert - July 20, 2016 at 06:07 PM

JS

“ Fifty One years ago I started taking dance with Ms. Miriam and Ms. Valerie. I had a child and continued to dance as an adult and when my daughter was a toddler enrolled her in classes. We still sing the "its a hap hap happy day" song that she danced to in her smiley face costume so many years ago. Ms. Miriam taught me so much about dance and proper technique. I had the pleasure of dancing both ballet and jazz with my daughter until she was 16 years old and I credit that to the two of you for instilling a love of dance in both of us.



I can never thank Ms. Miriam and Ms. Val enough for the gift of great posture and balance. All these years later I am most thankful for those two things. I will always remember her telling me to pretend that there was a string coming out of the top of my head and that someone was pulling me up tall. My heart is sad for the loss of such a wonderful teacher.

Ms. Val I know you probably don't remember me but I have never forgotten the two of you and the wonderful moments that came from dancing. You have spent a lifetime working together with your sister and I know your heart is heavy. I hope you know that Ms. Miriam's spirit will live on in the hearts of all the people whose lives she touched and she will never be forgotten - for as you can see 51 years later I am saddened by her passing.

My heartfelt sympathy to you and your family.

Janet Gordon Smith

Janet Gordon Smith - July 20, 2016 at 01:45 PM

JT

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family. I was a neighbor for the lovely and talented Rye sisters, and later for their parents when we all lived on Camellia Ct. Jo Telkamp*

Joanne R Telkamp - July 20, 2016 at 08:33 AM

JW

“ *Joe and Patti Weld purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Miriam Rye Doktor.*



Joe and Patti Weld - July 19, 2016 at 08:43 PM