Vivian Sue Rice of Hampton, GA died at home Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, of complications from lung cancer at the age of 61. Whether acting as a wife, mother, grandmother, educator or friend, Vivian was defined by selflessness, thoughtfulness, and warmth.

Vivian was born in Stillwater, OK to Orville H. and Vera M. Reininger. After spending most of her early childhood in Perry, OK, Vivian moved with her parents and brother, Bill, to Edmond, OK, in 1961. There she soon met Bradley R. Rice and began their friendship and romance that lasted for 48 years. Brad and Vivian married in 1969, graduated from Oklahoma State University, and moved to Texas.

Vivian taught English and journalism from 1970 to 1975 at Taylor High School while Brad completed his doctorate at the University of Texas. Their son, Travis, was born in Austin in 1974.

Vivian completed her M.A. at the University of Denver in 1976 while Brad taught there for one year. They moved to Georgia where Vivian gave birth to Vera in 1977 and began her 26 year career with the Clayton County Schools. After one year at North Clayton High School, Vivian transferred to Morrow High School where she was a fixture for twenty years as teacher and Instructional Lead Teacher. At Taylor and Morrow the student newspapers and yearbooks that Vivian sponsored won numerous awards. While teaching, Vivian completed her Ed.S. degree at Georgia State University and a curriculum leadership certificate from the University of West Georgia.

Following a brief period as lead teacher at Mt. Zion High School, she became the Secondary School Language Arts Coordinator for Clayton County Schools. She retired at the end of the 2003 academic year. Both before and after retirement she taught Freshman Composition classes on a part-time basis at Clayton State University.

Vivian was an active member of the Morrow Civic Women’s Club from 1978 until her death. She and Brad were members of Jonesboro United Methodist Church and adult Sunday School teachers. The Rices were avid travelers both before and after retirement visiting nearly every state and over 30 countries. The joy of her life for the last ten years was being “Vivimom” to six grandchildren. The children of Travis and Jeannie Rice of McDonough, GA, are Kate, David, and Drew. The children of Vera and Neil Atkinson of Spring, TX, are Sarah, Alfred, and Maggie. Vivimom was also especially close to two international students whom she and Brad hosted, Sofia Lundgren of Sweden and Elena Cholokova of Bulgaria. Survivors include all those mentioned above except her father who died in 1975.

The Memorial Gathering for Vivian will be Saturday, Jan. 16, at 10:00 a.m. at Haisten Funerals and Cremations, 1745 Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough, GA.