



Murray Creight Fincher

MAY 31, 1913 - MAY 19, 2014



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MURRAY CREIGHT FINCHER, left this world peacefully at his home on May 19th just twelve days shy of his 101st birthday.

Murray Fincher, youngest son of the Rev. Thomas Paine Fincher and Bessie Annie Lloyd, was born May 31, 1913 in Eclectic, Alabama, and grew up in Brundidge, Alabama. Small town life inspired many of his stories and fondest recollections. The first in his family to attend college, he graduated from Birmingham-Southern College and studied economics at The University of Georgia and Dartmouth College. After graduation, he worked for six years as a reporter for The Birmingham News then joined the Southern Bell division of AT&T in Atlanta (later South Central Bell). In 1957, a transfer brought the family to New Orleans, and in 1963 Fincher was elected officer in charge of Louisiana operations. He served in that capacity for 14 years.

Fincher's many contributions to Louisiana civic life included: president of the New Orleans Area Chamber of Commerce, general campaign chairman of the United Way during the September of Hurricane Betsy, campaign chairman of the Archbishop's Community Appeal, and president of the New Orleans Area Junior Achievement. With his wife Jean, he was active in numerous Carnival organizations. He was a member of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission by appointment of the Louisiana Supreme Court; served on the President's Council of Loyola University; as a member of the organizing committee for Tulane's Freeman School and as a trustee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In recognition of service to his community, he received the Weiss Award of the National Conference of Christian and Jews; the Whitney M. Young Award of the New Orleans Urban League; and the Community Service Award of the Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO among others.

The son of a Methodist minister, his long life was devoted to family and faith as



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member of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, Rayne United Methodist Church in New Orleans and St. Timothy on the Northshore United Methodist Church in Mandeville.

Throughout his life, he loved words and writing. From a head full of great writing, Fincher would quote anything from Thomas Gray, to the Gettysburg Address, to lyrics from the Fantasticks. His letters to the editor were legion, filled with insight and good humor. After the death of his beloved wife, writing was his refuge and solace. He wrote poetry and fiction, resulting in six published novels.

He is survived by three children: Jan M. Fincher of Longmont, Colorado; Thomas O. Fincher (Judith Graham) of Ramona, California, and Nancy F. Clark (Rendel) of Mandeville; four grandchildren: Todd Fincher of Portland, Oregon; Tracy Fincher of Chino Hills, CA.; Ryan Clark (Katherine Parker) of Charleston, South Carolina; Lauren Clark, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and four great grandchildren, Corporal Dustin Fincher USMC (Melinda) of Twentynine Palms, Ca.; Jake Thomas Stinson of Chino Hills; Rendel and Adelaide Clark of Charleston.

A celebration of a life well-lived will be held on June 6, 2014 at St Timothy on the Northshore United Methodist Church, 335 Asbury Drive, Mandeville. Visitation will begin at 10:00 with service and reception following.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Methodist Children's Home of Greater New Orleans, <https://donate.lmch.org/mchgno>.



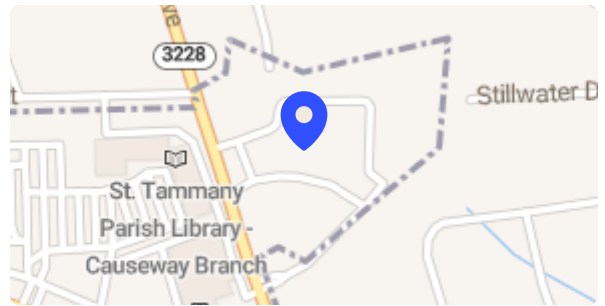
Events

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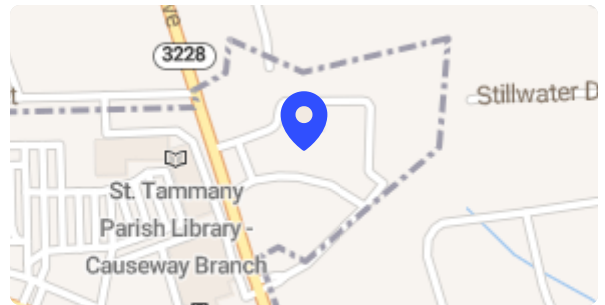
Visitation

- 📅 **Friday**, June 6, 2014
- 🕒 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- 📍 **St. Timothy on the Northshore**
335 Asbury Dr., Mandeville LA 70471



Celebration of Life

- 📅 **Friday**, June 6, 2014
- 🕒 11:00 AM CT
- 📍 **St. Timothy on the Northshore**
335 Asbury Dr., Mandeville LA 70471





Tribute Wall

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CC

Cathy Cammarosano posted:

My deepest condolences to Murray's family. He is the example of the life well lived. I had the pleasure to get to know him at St. Timothy as we served on a committee together. He was the voice of wisdom, calm and sometimes needed wit when times were difficult. I became very fond of him, and was blessed to be able to know him. RIP dear Murray...see you on the other side..

August 31 at 2:54 PM

HR

Helen Reese posted:

To Mr. Fincher's Children--Murray leaves a legacy of love and wisdom. I knew Mr. Fincher first as a leader at South Central Bell, then as an elder at St. Timothy and then friendship. My daughter, Alaina asked Murray and Jean to sponser her as she was confirmed at St. Timothy many years ago. They readily accepted and took the role as her sponser very serious--spending time with her and reading spiritual lessons. It is a time she never forgot. He and Jean were wonderful people. God Bless YouHelen Reese

June 5 at 8:03 AM

GK

George Koschel posted:

I believe this message is for Thomas. Anyway your father was my father's boss at Bell South. One evening in the early sixties we went to your folks's home for dinner if my memory is correct. Anyway you had a scuba tank with a regulator and a harness. We were both fans of an awful television show, Malibu Run. Long story short, I've been diving since 1975. In 2 weeks am going to Gulf shores for a weekend of diving and plan on going to Grand Cayman in November. Sorry about your father. I recognized his face immediately. Seems like the southern gentleman in the mold of Walker Percy.Sincerely,George Koschel

June 4 at 11:05 AM

GC

Glennell Cottrill posted:

Murray and Jean were both wonderful examples for all of us at St Timothy UMC. Murray was always the wise, gentle voice in all manner of issues at the church. God's blessings and comfort be with you. Glennell Forinash Cottrill

May 28 at 3:11 PM



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BT

Betsy Teuton posted:

Murray was a wonderful "Home Visit" volunteer at the Samaritan Center when I was privileged to work with him there over a period of several years. His quiet efficiency and loving spirit blessed me and many of the people with whom he visited to determine the best way for us to help. It was a joy to know him and an honor to work with him. Betsy Teuton

May 26 at 5:15 AM

KW

Kelly Williams posted:

My condolences to your family. Murray was such a friendly, familiar face at St. Timothy's when I was growing up. His strong faith is an example for us all. Kelly (Glass) Williams

May 23 at 4:06 PM

MF

Marty Landry MD May 27 at 7:41 AM

Mr Fincher was a wonderful guiding light for me in my somewhat wayward youth, offering advice and the occasional scolding, well deserved! My family and I had the privilege of living across the street from Mr and Mrs Fincher while I was growing up in Lakewood South in New Orleans. He gave me my first real job, working at Ma Bell in between semesters at college and Medical School. His wisdom and advice were well heeded and were passed on to my sons. He will be missed, although he is probably grinning from ear to ear to be back with Mrs Fincher! Marty Landry MD



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Murray by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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