



Kathy McLaughlin

December 15, 1952 - April 13, 2019

Kathy McLaughlin, Age 66, of Rowlett passed away, Saturday, April 13th, 2019.

Kathy, tall and beautiful, grew up with her beloved parents Charles and Wilhelmina Sponberg and younger brother Charles in Austin, Texas. Kathy was an accomplished classical pianist, taking part in numerous state competitions during her childhood. She always made herself available to support her brother with unconditional love and educational guidance growing up. At McCallum High School, she played flute in the concert band and participated as a twirler in the marching band. She graduated high school in 1971.

Kathy went on to attend the University of Texas, graduating in 1974 with an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. While in school, she was an avid member of the Longhorn Marching Band, and upon graduation, became an active member of the Longhorn Alumni Band. She travelled to play in the Alumni game each year that she was able. Her love for her University was most clearly expressed as she enthusiastically cheered on Longhorn athletic teams, and her favorite time of year was the college football season.

After taking a university course, Kathy fell in love with Ballet. She performed with the Austin Ballet Theater, and at the Rowlett Dance Academy, she performed various leading roles in the Nutcracker ballet. She danced and continued to take part in performances well into her 50's.

In 1974, she began her career as a Kindergarten teacher at Sims Elementary in Austin, Texas. After several years of instruction, she decided to continue her education, and pursued her Master's Degree from UT Austin in Early Childhood Education. In 1984 she attained that degree. After 10 years of service and the birth of her first son Robert in December of 1985, she retired from teaching in order to focus on being a mother. She dedicated her life to raising her eventual three children, with the addition of Michael in 1988 and William in 1992.

John and Kathy were married on August 1, 1981 in Austin and resided there until they moved to Rowlett in 1990. She was a loving and supportive wife.

Kathy's dedication to her children meant that they had very active childhoods. Starting at an early age, she began instructing them in piano. She was highly engaged with the Cub Scout programs of Pack 1020, and both Michael and William would eventually attain Eagle Scout ranks in Troop 1020. Kathy was a major influence in their progress in Scouting.

Kathy loved working with her hands and completed beautiful needle point and crochet projects. She would go above and beyond to encourage her children to pursue creative endeavors.

In her later years, she also volunteered with the special needs care organizations that her son Robert attended. Her time at My Possibilities and Coventry Reserve was spent enriching the lives of their members with arts projects, life skills education, and enterprise education. Kathy had a lasting interest in biblical studies, through study groups, books, and television as well as holistic medicine. She also had a love for movies produced in the 1930s through the 1950s.

Kathy was preceded in death by her father, Charles W. Sponberg Jr. and mother, Wilhelmina M. Sponberg. Kathy is survived by her brother, Charles Sponberg and his wife Leslie, husband John McLaughlin, sons Robert McLaughlin, Michael McLaughlin and his wife Jenna, William McLaughlin and his wife Heather, and granddaughter Charlotte McLaughlin.

Graveside services will be held 1:00 pm Thursday, April 18, 2019, at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Rowlett. In Lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the following organizations:

The Coventry Reserve (www.CoventryReserve.org)

My Possibilities (www.MyPossibilities.org)

Mercy Ships (www.mercyships.org)

Events

APR 18 **Graveside Service** 01:00PM

Sacred Heart Cemetery
3900 Rowlett Road, Rowlett, TX, US, 75088

Comments



“ I just found out about Kathy. I am sending comfort to her family. Kathy and I went to McCallum together and she was my roommate at Alpha Xi Delta for a semester. She was a wonderful woman and friend. The world is a better place because of Kathy.

Sharon Clark - December 14, 2019 at 12:47 PM



“ J was so sad to hear of Kathy's passing. She was a wonderful person. She went through so much and was still upbeat and there for others. I am so thankful her and I were able to help each other through some tough times I know she is in heaven now with Jesus and so happy. But she sure will be missed.

Julie Falls - May 31, 2019 at 08:38 AM



“ Hey family of Kathy. This is Rhonda Lumpkin Gilley. I am deeply touched by Kathy's death. We went to elementary school (Ridgetop) and were very good friends. In fact, she was part of our "girl group" for 6 years. We were only separated by the building of Reagan High and our addresses. We always stayed in touch through parents or friends. We had a very special neighborhood. In fact, Kathy was at my wedding showers and I have recipes in her handwriting to this day. She was special. I don't ask why she is gone. There are no answers to that question. Always remember the good times and document memories for all her future generations. We lived, We loved. We were human and we were here and alive. We may not be perfect but until her death, she was once your age each year of her life. With my love!

Rhonda Gail Gilley - April 26, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Kathy's passing. I knew Kathy many years ago when our kids were little and we were members of the local Mother's Club. She always had a smile and was so easy to talk to! The world is less bright with her passing.

Jeanette Richardson - April 18, 2019 at 11:13 AM



“ While I was being a dance mom, Kathy was still dancing. Kathy welcomed Amanda and Phil to the Nutcracker. Kathy was the maid the first year Phil was Uncle Drosselmeyer. Kathy was a friend and encouraged Amanda. In fact, Amanda continues dance lessons as an adult. Kathy was also my friend. She was kind to me and always had a smile. May God grant peace to her family.

Blyson Kelso - April 18, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ John and boys, I was so saddened to hear of Kathy's passing! I have great memories of standing outside with her and our old neighbor Lisa Putnam talking while our kids played. She was so sweet and smart and had such a giving heart. Praying for you all. Carl, Melinda, Molly, Olivia and Aaron O'Dell

Melinda O'Dell - April 17, 2019 at 03:04 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Kathy's passing. I will always treasure our time with her at the studio. Her passion for dance and her encouragement and support for others set the Barre high for the rest of us. She will be missed.

Carol Ann Maggiotto - April 16, 2019 at 09:46 PM



“ Oh, sweet Kathy. What a blessing you have been to so many lives. You were such a mom to our girls at the dance studio. You shared your dedication to the art along with your friendship. You always brought a bright smile, a friendly word and just made for so many deep friendships. I loved our chats at the studio. It was "girl time" for us!

I wish your family strength and happy memories. I wish you peace, blessings, and God's loving, welcoming touch.

Patty McNabb



Patty McNabb - April 16, 2019 at 12:20 PM



“ John and family, I am heartbroken for all of you. Kathy was my best friend and I will miss her. You are all in my prayers during this time and the days to come. May God bless you all. Toni George

Toni George - April 15, 2019 at 06:33 PM



“ John, Robert, Michael and William, I want to extend our sincerest sympathy to you during this difficult time. Your sweet wife/mom was SO special to all of us. Her example of love and caring for each of us...and especially for her beautiful family...will remain an inspiration for many years to come. I cannot help but think how Jesus allowed her to be like Him in all the suffering she endured...especially during the weeks before Easter. As a priest once spoke to my cousins at the funeral of their mom, "When you want to talk to you mother, come to Jesus in the Tabernacle where your mom resides with Him," I encourage you to do the same. May Kathy's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.
Love from Bernadette Whitney and family

Bernadette Whitney - April 18, 2019 at 02:49 PM