



Carolyn J. Kniffen

August 4, 1938 - May 20, 2018

Carolyn Janet Kniffen, 79, of Tyler entered Heaven's gate May 20, 2018. We take comfort in knowing she did not go to the Garden alone and we will see her soon!

Carolyn was born August 4, 1938 and raised in Clyde, TX where she was a cheerleader, a basketball player and a State Championship tennis player. On August 24, 1957, she married her high school sweetheart, Freddie Kniffen. They lived in Abilene, TX for 16 years, then moved to Tyler where they spent the next 45 years. They shared a special love. They were a team. They loved, and they were loved.

Carolyn was a loving, gracious, humble and faithful woman of God. A devoted mother and homemaker. So many lives were touched by her sweet spirit and her servant's heart. She will be remembered for the love she shared with her devoted husband, her love for all of her family, friends, students, tennis players and everyone she met. She loved to host people in her home for dinners, Bible Studies, or just a cup of coffee and a visit. She was "Mrs. Coach" to Coach Fred Kniffen. She was the Matriarch of UT Tyler, TJC, and Abilene tennis. She traveled to matches from coast to coast and was every player's biggest cheerleader. She was a staple of the tennis community not only in Texas, but nationwide. Her impact on teams from decades ago to present-time will never be forgotten.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Fred Kniffen; her children and spouses, Janet (Jeff) Scholl, Dallas, TX; Judy (Travis) Clardy, Nacogdoches,

TX; J'Lynn (Micky) Navarro; Dale (Wendy) Kniffen; 13 loving grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Madeline Newton (Weatherford, TX). She was preceded in death by her parents, Bailey & Modena Johnson and her brother, Tommy Johnson.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 24, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler. A funeral service celebrating her life will be held Friday, May 25, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Shiloh Road Church of Christ, 1801 Shiloh Rd, Tyler. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bailey Johnson Scholarship Fund, First Financial Bank of Clyde, 718 Elm St., Clyde, TX 79510 or (<https://www.gofundme.com/bailey-johnson-scholarship-fund>).

This is the day the Lord has made. We WILL rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **24.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

MAY **25.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Shiloh Road Church of Christ
1801 Shiloh Rd.
Tyler, TX 75703

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carolyn J. Kniffen



Stewart Family Funeral Home - May 22, 2018 at 04:30 PM

DB

“ My dear Janet, Fred and Kniffen family,

Carolyn was a blessing and gift. You are my extended family and I will miss her. God has her now, freed her from the suffering and pain and she is now resting in the presence of our Lord, wrapped in His peace! It's difficult to express how my heart and mind can feel both sadness and joy at the same time. There's comfort knowing she's with our Lord, joyous in Heaven and the angels are singing "Hallelujah!" A great reunion is happening there and we will meet again!

Blessings to you all and may God give you peace during this time.

*With much love,
Debra (Debbie) Bent*

Debra Bent - May 25, 2018 at 08:06 AM

RK

“ Carolyn was a special lady. She was so loving and kind to many kids at camp over the years. I am thankful for all those years of working Big Country Tennis Camp and visiting with her each day. She was a mother and grandmother to many in her life. Thank you for all you did for so many. You will be missed. R. King

Randall King - May 24, 2018 at 11:09 PM

DZ

“ Your family has always meant so much to me. I am so sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers.

David Zimmerman

David Zimmerman - May 24, 2018 at 10:09 PM

MB

“ Much Love, Debra, Michael & Mary Bent purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carolyn J. Kniffen.



Much Love, Debra, Michael & Mary Bent - May 24, 2018 at 11:50 AM

PA

“ Such a sweet person. I send my love and condolences to the family. Freddy and Carolyn were so much help to me when. My twin brother Perry Davis was in ICU IN Tyler.

Polly Atha - May 23, 2018 at 07:16 PM

GM

“ Life goes so fast--and here we are. So many of these pictures of Carolyn's youth are ones I remember and they are wonderful. The last time I saw her about 3 years ago, she was the same as she'd always been: sweet, kind, unassuming, loving to all.

Some things I recall--her being in my sister's wedding, 1950; always attending church and Sunday School together, playing at her home as a kid, and watching her on the tennis court after school; and countless basketball and football games. I was there in Austin she she won State in Spring 1955. She lived a good life and I'm thankful she and Freddie had each other through the years. I was happy to see a picture of their family--how wonderful.

Bless you, Freddie, as you go through this sad time. You have many wonderful, loving memories, I'm sure. Love to all, Gloria Forester Morris, Arlington, TX.

Gloria Morris - May 23, 2018 at 06:56 PM

NB

“ I don't believe I've actually seen Carolyn Kniffen at any time in the last half-century, but I feel like a member of my family has just gone on into the next life. The Kniffen boys were our neighbors when I was growing up. Carolyn's mother was my eighth grade teacher. Bailey Johnson, her father, was our school superintendent. I always thought he ruled with an iron hand. It took many years for me to understand the iron hand had a velvet touch. Tommy and Carolyn were from my generation. If you grew up in a place like Clyde, Texas, in those years, you had a feeling that the entire community, and especially the school community actually became an extended family. What a great blessing it was to grow up in the company of the Kniffen family and the Johnson family. My heart aches for Freddie and all of those Carolyn is leaving back on this side of the great beyond. I'm so glad that all these wonderful people touched my life, and even though I haven't spent time with Carolyn and Freddie since the late fifties, I have a great sense of appreciation for the opportunity to grow up around such magnificent people.

*Norman Bales
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
from the class of 1953 at Clyde High School*

Norman Bales - May 23, 2018 at 05:08 PM

CP

“ Fred, my thoughts are with you and your family at this time.

cecile petty - May 23, 2018 at 12:33 PM

JC

“ Jackie Ledbetter and Children purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Carolyn J. Kniffen.



Jackie Ledbetter and Children - May 22, 2018 at 06:47 PM

SS

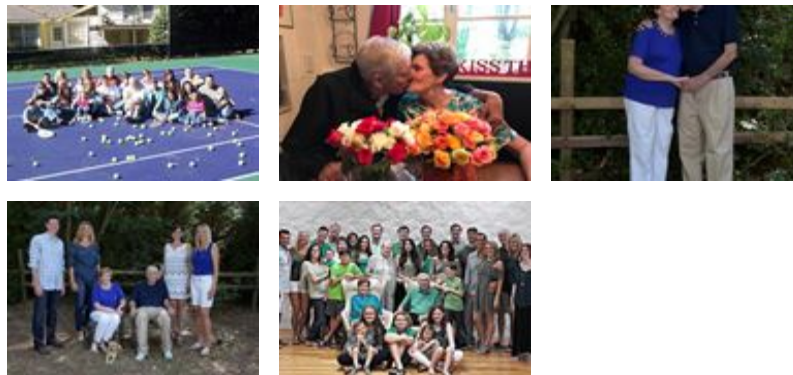
“ I am so sorry to learn of Carolyn's untimely death. She was so viral at the last family reunion in August! Carolyn never changed from the first time I saw her. She was always the same. My sincerest condolences to her family and everyone who loved her during this sad time and the difficult days to come.

Sunny and Gene

Sunny Stephens - May 22, 2018 at 06:24 PM



“ 30 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - May 22, 2018 at 03:27 PM

KK

“ *Kimm and Sheryl Ketelsen purchased the Violets And Butterflies for the family of Carolyn J. Kniffen.*



Kimm and Sheryl Ketelsen - May 22, 2018 at 12:46 PM

SK

“ *Kimm and I were both so sorry to hear of Carolyn's passing. She was just the most wonderful and kind lady... She and Fred welcomed us with open arms when we moved to Tyler and became neighbors, and we have enjoyed a lot of good food, fun and fellowship with both of them thru the years. Hold tight to your memories and know in your heart that she loved you with all of hers. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if there's anything we can do.*
Sheryl Ketelsen

Sheryl Ketelsen - May 22, 2018 at 12:39 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carolyn J. Kniffen.*



May 22, 2018 at 11:41 AM



“ *Adoring Heart was purchased for the family of Carolyn J. Kniffen.*



May 21, 2018 at 11:32 PM