



Dorothy Dee" Patterson

May 26, 1965 - August 3, 2010

Memorial services for Dorothy "Dee Dee" Hairston Patterson, 45, of Tyler are scheduled for Saturday, August 7, 2010 at 1:30 PM in the chapel of Stewart Family Funeral Home with Rev. Kirkland Knight officiating. Interment will be at Rose Hill Cemetery at a later date.

Mrs. Patterson passed away Tuesday, August 3, 2010 in Tyler. Dee Dee was born to James Denny and Dorothy Lillard Hairston on May 26, 1965 in Tyler. She also lived in Dallas, Richardson, and McAllen. She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1983. After attending Tyler Junior College, she graduated from UT Austin with a degree in Elementary Education. She later earned two masters degrees from UT Tyler. Dee Dee was a dedicated teacher for 20 years and especially loved teaching special needs students. She was a member of Christ Episcopal Church. Some of Dee Dee's happiest times were summers spent as a camper at Camp Waldemar and fun times spent with daughter, Emily, and friends, Mary Glen and Gina.

Dee Dee was preceded in death by her grandparents, Jim Lillard, Dixie Kay and J.D. Hairston. She is survived by her loving husband, Bob Patterson; daughter, Emily Longoria; step-daughter, Ann Marie Fate and husband, Chris, all of Tyler; three grandchildren; parents, Dottie and Jim Hairston of Tyler; grandmother, Dorothy Lillard; sisters, Barbara Haslett of Tyler and Katie Kennedy and husband, Chuck, of Houston; and nieces, Anna Haslett and Lilly Kennedy. Dee Dee was a seventh generation Tylerite.

Memorials in honor of Dee Dee Patterson may be made to the National Autism Association,

1330 W. Schatz Lane, Nixa, MO 65714 or Special Olympics Texas, 7715
Chevy Chase Drive, Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78752.

Tribute Wall

BV

“ Our hearts go out for the Patterson Family, we are very sorry for your loss. The Visage Family

Bill & Debbie Visage - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ Dee Dee had the most wonderful laugh, it's impossible to put it into words, her laugh. It came on suddenly, out of the blue, and it came from her whole person, right from the middle of her, a sound of joy exploding all around her. To hear her laugh was a gift and a joy, the whole room would brighten, you just couldn't have a bad day when she laughed. I've seen students that are normally withdrawn into themselves stop and take notice, students who were acting out stop and suddenly, miraculously, begin to have a good day, all from the sound of Dee Dee's laugh. She was a gift, just knowing her and getting to work with her, teaching VBS and Sunday School together, going on field trips from school, life around Dee Dee was always a wonderful adventure. She will be missed, greatly missed, especially her rare, wonderful laughter.

Frank Hibbs - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Dee Dee was a bright light. She absolutely radiated joy and was such fun to be around. Her laugh was infectious and her energy was incomparable. She was always thinking of others, and would give the shirt off her back if she knew someone needed it. Her heart was so completely dedicated to her students, so loyal and devoted to her family, and so thoughtful and kind to her friends.
Dee Dee will be greatly missed.

Betsy Barry - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

“ I met Dee dee at Robert E. Lee a few years ago. I didn't get to know her well before she stopped teaching, but it was like we had already met. She had graduated from high school with my sister Felicia and they were friends in school. Because of their last names both starting with an H, they were always seated together in school. Dee dee and I became close over the last two years. She could not call me Barbara, but instead, called me Miss Hamilton. She was a sweet, caring, and loving person. She was very passionate about working with "special children". A couple of years ago, Dee dee, Bob, and Emily came over to my parents house on Thanksgiving Day, where she met all of my sisters that she didn't know, and my whole big family. I have a nephew, Jarrod, who is special that Dee dee finally got to meet on that day. She thought that he was really cute and said that she would love to talk to him again. Well, she got her wish because Jarrod talked about Dee dee from that day on until today. One day, Jarrod was bugging me about Dee dee, and to "call Dee dee". He is very persistent when something is on his mind, so we called Dee dee. I gave the phone to Jarrod and she talked to him. Not many people would show this kind of caring. I don't know what she said to him, but he was grinning from ear to ear. He love it. He talked about her constantly after that. Not many people would understand Jarrod's language, but she sure did, immediately. She was so passionate about "special kids". She said to let Jarrod call her any time and that it was fun talking to him.

Dee dee had three loves in this world. They were Bob, Emily, and teaching life skills. Those are the things that meant everything in the world to her.

What I came to love about her was her caring, passion and being able to speak her mind at all times about what was right.

Her and I talked to the phone many nights a week, and I am going to miss the friendship that we shared. We shared many special ed. stories. I can still hear her laughing her head off right now. She was well educated and taught me a lot of things about this cruel world. She was an easy person to talk to and to love. I will have many fond memories of our stories that we swapped.

She is now in a place where she is not hurting, emotionally or

physically ever again.

I talked to Dee dee on the phone on Monday night before she passed on to her new journey. I will miss her. I hope that she is laughing and smiling and looking down upon me, and all of us whose heart that she has touched.

*Dee dee, You will
be missed.*

Miss Hamilton

Barbara Hamilton - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *I met Dee Dee for the first time at Robert E. Lee. Barbara, her sister, Dee Dee and myself went to lunch together and we immediately hit it off. The things that I found endearing about her was that she was "kooky", funny, and unique. In addition, she had a good heart and would be there in your time of need. She will be missed.*

Kelli Runnels - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ I worked with Deedee's grandfather for about 20 years. Grandparents, being grandparents, love to talk about their grandchildren. Deedee's grandfather was no exception, and so I felt that I knew Deedee long before I ever met her.

When Deedee's grandfather retired, her husband Bob took over her grandfather's position, and I have worked with him for a number of years. In that time, I have come to know and love Deedee.

I believe that the light of deep abiding love is most visible when the trials and travails of life present themselves, and are illuminated by the love between a husband and wife. I have long admired Deedee and Bob for the way they confronted and dealt with life's issues together, and let their love for each other shine through.

I will always remember the cheerful and bubbling way in which Deedee answered the phone when I called, and the enthusiasm with which she would fetch Bob to the phone. It showed how special she was. She will be truly missed.

My most heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Bob and Deedee's family for their loss.

Carl Ward - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Another Unselfish Act of Kindness and Love:*

*The second year that Dee dee taught at Robert E. Lee, she did something amazing for a student. We had a young man from New Orleans who was displaced by the hurricane there. He couldn't legally ride the school bus because he lived just under 2 miles from the school. Dee dee made her Bob go to Goodwill or somewhere and get that boy a bicycle. I thought that she was crazy when she came to school and had this bicycle in her Suburban for this kid. The student was happy and smiled. He was proud of his new ride. I had even seen him riding down the Loop, a year after he received this gift from his teacher.
Awesome!!!!*

Barbara Hamilton - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ME

“Dee Dee was one of the first person's I met when I moved to Tyler in 1999. I ended up substituting for her in her classroom at Moore Middle School that spring and our friendship has grown ever since. Teachers can tell a lot about a fellow teacher when they walk into a classroom. When I first walked into Dee Dee's class it was easy to see how much this teacher loved her students. Dee Dee's energy was everywhere. Her room was a portable, full of activities - stimulating activities, not just stuff. The room was colorful and welcoming just like Dee Dee. There was clear evidence of an outpouring of love for learning and helping her students thrive. Her students' wanted for nothing. That was Dee Dee's way. There wasn't anything Dee Dee wouldn't do for anyone, friend or stranger. She was compassionate and kind. She was also a strong advocate and supported you, no matter what. She worked tirelessly to give to others so she would leave them with a much better situation than before Dee Dee came along. Dee Dee shared everything she had; her time, her wisdom, her happiness, her concerns, her support, her heart and soul. Dee Dee and I shared our students. After being with Dee Dee, they would come to me but they were still hers. She continued to care, continued to take an interest, be concerned, want to know if they were doing okay and help in any way she could. I have so many memories of Dee Dee that make me smile and feel the warmth and love she shared. I thank God for giving me such a wonderful friend. I will miss Dee Dee very much. Bob, God is with you and your family now and always, soothing you with his love and grace. Dee Dee is now with God, imparting her love to console and give you comfort and peace. You will be in my prayers,
Mary Anne

Mary Anne Eichman - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ This poem is in loving memory of Dee Dee.

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved ones's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

Cindy Hamilton Joplin - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Dee Dee and I shared so many precious moments. She and I had a special connection. We had so much fun sharing about our students and classes that were alike. When June left me to go to Moore, Dee Dee found the jewel I had experienced. Dee Dee was wonderful, smart, caring, but most of all I'll miss her smile, that laugh, and joy she brought in my life and the lives of others. Emily and Bob I'm praying for you as you remember the joy she brought to you.*

Loving, Linnette Montgomery

God Bless You!

Linnette Montgomery - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ No one can know the personal demons with which we each must struggle to keep our emotions and our view of life from being changed. Dorothy fought with a multitude of forces that strived to change her emotions and which drove her thoughts, feelings and actions. Nevertheless, she never quit in the struggle despite the telling effect that it had on her mentally, emotionally and physically. The one thing that she never allowed it to change was her love for her husband, Bob, or her love and dedication to those less fortunate and to individuals with special needs. Despite her many turmoils at the last part of her life and the many things which were said and done, she never could let go of her deep love for her daughter, Emily. Despite many things said in hurt and anger, she never quit loving both Bob and Emily more than life itself. Dorothy's proudest achievement was the connection that she was able to make with individuals who were handicapped. She remained attached to these children and adults; and her unwavering desire to help them will remain her greatest legacy. For those of us who tried to help Dorothy, each of us wishes that we could have done more to ease her struggle. Although she wanted to end the struggle many times, she always felt that she could not give up because of her concern for those she loved. Eventually the struggle took her life, but in some respects this was a victory for her despite it being a tremendous loss for us.

Lloyd Mercer - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ I just want to say what a nice person Dee Dee was. I went to High School with her, and considered her one of my good friends. We shared a lot of laughs through High School. I lost touch with her through the years, but soon discovered her friendship with my sister who taught Special Ed with her at Lee. Two years ago she came to my parents house on Thanksgiving day and visited. I was really glad to see her. She was a great person and a true friend to everyone she met, but will be in a wonderful place in her new journey in time.

Your friend, Felicia Massey

Felicia Massey - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ I really got to know Dee Dee after sharing a first block conference period together when she taught at Robert E. Lee High School. She was so friendly, warm, and willing to go the extra mile to help anyone in need. Her smile was contagious, and we always found something to laugh about during those early morning hours. A favorite memory was when we had a 'college t-shirt day' and I had on my UT orange and white t-shirt. DeeDee commented on it and was excited to talk about UT/Austin, and I told her that I had also attended SFASU in Nacogdoches, but didn't have a Lumberjack t-shirt. Shortly afterwards, she brought me one (from her daughter's collection), and said 'now you're covered for both.' She had such a sweet heart, and loved to talk/ 'brag' about her daughter--rightfully so! My husband has worked with/ been friends with her dad, and she always spoke highly of her parents, with love. She demonstrated unconditional love to her students, as well. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God...if God so loved us, we ought to love one another...we love because He first loved us..." 1 John 4:7; 11; 19. Dee Dee knew this. Our loss is her gain; may she rest peacefully in the arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and experience His perfect love forever. In His name, amen.

Vicki Bayless - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ZH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Zonetta Hitt

Zonetta Hitt - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ It is impossible to think of DeeDee without thinking of her smile, her laugh, and the joyful energy that followed her into a room. She was always thinking of my children, and finding random little treasures to make them happy. Every time she was over, she was nothing but smiles. Her genuine love for children has always been so obvious. I know that her love for her own child was a true driving force for her. And she loved my father deeply, truly, and sincerely. She brought him so much happiness. For that I am truly grateful.

Ann Marie E Fate - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EY

“ I am sorry for your loss.
I found Dee Dee to always be friendly, genuine, outgoing, and opinionated.
She will be deeply missed.

Erma Yarbrough - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I first met Dee Dee at Moore Middle School. We worked together for 11 years. Through working with her we became the best of friends. She was a loving kind person. It wasn't anything that she would not do for you. She was that way with whomever she met. She loved the kids that she worked with also. There will be a great void in my life. We laughed together and cried together. Dee Dee was like a sister to me. She always had a kind word to say to you. She had a great laugh too. One minute she would cry and then the next minute she would burst out with this LOUD laughter. We had the best of times at Moore Middle School and the times after that.

Thank you Bob for coming into Dee Dee's life. You are so special. We had the same birthday, January 22nd. I love you always remember that.

Jimmie, Dottie, Emily, Barbie, Anna, and Katie- I will keep you all in my prayers. I know that you loved Dee Dee, but God loves her more!

Love,
June

June Long - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Dee Dee, you will be missed. You were a God send to those special children. I pray that your family will get through this. Your friend in Christ , Carolyn Holly

Carolyn Holly - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I am so sorry to hear about her passing. I was thinking of her the other day because I didn't get the chance to return her heater that she so graciously let me borrow for the cold portable and she told me she was in no hurry to get it back. I was so sorry when she abruptly left our faculty because we had many early morning talks a couple of years ago when we would meet in the production room. I will miss her presence on this earth.

Delores "Dee Dee" Sanders - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Gayle and I were saddened by hearing about the loss of your daughter, Dee Dee. Please accept our condolences for your loss, and may God give to each of you the comfort that you need during this time of loss.

Charles & Gayle Payne - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ i don't know why, but dee's name has been on my mind lately. i look her up and and see this obituary. i want to give my greatest sympathy to the family. i met dee in high school. i remember she drove a green station wagon? i always remembered dee to be a really nice person. lately, i have received documentation from a family tree research project that the wright's were related to some hairstons, i believe with my great grandmother being one. my grandfather was johnny wright, and he passed away not too long ago. once again, deepest sympathy.

lori lingo-brown

lori lingo-brown - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ TRJAKm aeyvfnetmyue, [url=http://idqhotgxaqcp.com/]idqhotgxaqcp [url], [link=http://mkxfrnflndhm.com/]mkxfrnflndhm[/link], http://divrrt erchxo.com/

dnfvqyp - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ *Dee Dee was such a joyful person and so much fun to be around. She always had a huge smile on her face and always had a way of making everyone around her laugh and smile. She was a wonderful friend and I will miss her very much. She has definitely impacted my life in such a positive way and I am blessed to have known her and to call her my friend. I will be praying for all of you.*

Love,
Angela Lansdale Ables

Angela Lansdale Ables - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ I got the chance to know Dee Dee when we worked together at Moore Middle School. Though I didn't know her very well. I learned that she had a huge heart. During my time at Moore my husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I was as can imagine overwhelmed. I had two young boys to raise and was just making it emotionally by a small thread. I came home from a long night and day at the hospital to find someone had mowed and weed eated my entire yard. It looked so beautiful! It gave me a sense of order in my life, even if was just a small one. It turned out to be Dee Dee and her husband. They had not only given up their Saturday. But were out in the hot Texas heat offering their services (we can all appreciate that). You can't imagine how much that meant to me. Remember Dee Dee didn't really even know me, which makes it all the more amazing. I think mowed it one or two more times, until I assured her that it would be ok and that I had hired someone. What a testimony to myself and others.

She will be missed! My deepest prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time. Karen

Karen Tinney-Higginbotham - August 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM