



Ethel Irene Orbaugh

May 31, 1938 - April 29, 2015

Irene Kirkbride Orbaugh passed away Wednesday, April 29, 2015 after a brief but valiant battle with leukemia. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 1, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home. Honoring her memory and celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy. in Tyler, with Rev. Keith Brister officiating.

Burial will follow at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery in Tyler, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Born May 31, 1938 in Hominy, OK, Irene was a petite, red head who loved music and as a child spent countless hours at the piano. That love for music led her to serve God's people as a pianist and organist in the churches they attended. Irene had the distinction of growing up on the Osage Indian Reservation and told colorful stories of those times. She met her beloved John on a blind date arranged by her soon to be sister-in-law and they married on June 19, 1958. John's engineering profession took them from Tulsa, OK to Lexington and Cynthiana KY and Lindale, TX. From their times on Lake Cumberland in Somerset, KY on the houseboat that John built, to sledding in the snow in Cynthiana, theirs was a close knit family. As an adult, Irene taught ceramics and volunteered that service at a local mental health facility. All types of needlework and sewing was another love of Irene's and many friends and her family were blessed by that talent. As a couple, she and John loved square dancing.

She worked most of her adult life as a legal secretary. Later in life she greatly enjoyed assisting those in need of service in the Smith County Law Library. Most recently, she worked as the receptionist for the Smith County Sheriff's Department and was the first voice heard when citizens called the courthouse. The many employees of the courthouse were much like a second family to her and she loved them dearly.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband John William Orbaugh, parents Emmons and Dora Kirkbride, sisters, Dorothy, Louise, Edna and Margaret Jane and brothers Carl and Errett.

She is survived by her brother Grady; son, John Kirk (Brenda); daughter, Karen (Michael); son, Kristopher (Patty) and grandchildren Rachel (Clayton), Jonathan (Becky), Nathaniel, Krista and Kassi.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Gideon's International at www.gideons.org.

Proverbs 31:28 "Her children will rise up and call her blessed."

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

MAY 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

SB

“ I remember Irene fondly and worked with her for many years in Dallas at Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal law firm. She was a fun lady with a cute giggle. Her husband, John, refinished my late grandmother's hope chest and did a beautiful job. I will cherish it always. May she rest in peace with our heavenly father!
Sheri Jones Bagby

Sheri Jones Bagby - August 10, 2015 at 10:25 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.



May 01, 2015 at 02:22 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.



May 01, 2015 at 12:26 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.*



May 01, 2015 at 10:11 AM



“ *Irene was a very special, very interesting lady - always surprising you. So kind and caring. I loved dropping by to chat with her when I went down to the court house for jury duty. I will miss her.*

Linda Steed - April 30, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ *Dorthie and Becky Kirkbride purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.*



Dorthie and Becky Kirkbride - April 30, 2015 at 04:46 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.*



April 30, 2015 at 03:09 PM

RK

“ Aunt Irene may you rest in peace. Although we are many miles away my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Roger Kirkbride, Smithfield, VA

Roger Kirkbride - April 30, 2015 at 02:05 PM

JT

“ Sweet, sweet lady. Always pleasant. Always helpful. Really enjoyed seeing her every week for the past many years at the courthouse.
Joe Thigpen

Joe Thigpenn - April 30, 2015 at 01:17 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.



April 30, 2015 at 11:12 AM

JL

“ John's Records Mgmt Girls (Rosa, Margo & Lorena) purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.



John's Records Mgmt Girls (Rosa, Margo & Lorena) - April 30, 2015 at 09:35 AM

BB

“ Irene was such a joy to be around. I will miss her and I know that she is in heaven now playing the piano with all of the other angels.

Brian and Michelle Bridges - April 30, 2015 at 09:30 AM

JW

“ There is no doubt that this world has experienced a loss in the passing of Miss Irene; but there is also no doubt, that she is home with her Lord and with many jewels in her crown. Our thoughts and prayers are with each feeling the loss today. May your faith and the comfort of friends surround you all.

Joshua & Ashley Wintters - April 30, 2015 at 09:19 AM

YB

“ Your C&T Lunch Bunch purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.



Your C&T Lunch Bunch - April 30, 2015 at 09:17 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ethel Irene Orbaugh.



April 29, 2015 at 05:11 PM

LB

“ I was blessed to have her as a friend and she was a true inspiration in my life...please know that you all continue to be in my thoughts and prayers, I loved her and will miss her, the funny emails and jokes she would share along with her wisdom...
Much love to you all, Lisa Francis Bennett



Lisa Francis Bennett - April 29, 2015 at 04:13 PM

LB

Matthew 5:4

Lisa Francis Bennett - April 29, 2015 at 04:15 PM

JD

“ Kris, Patty, Krista and Kassie,
So sorry to hear of Mrs. Irene's death.
Cherish her sweet memories! We have you in
our thoughts and prayers! You are all so
special to us.
Our love,
Jerry Don and Pat E. Dorman
Proverbs 17:17



Jerry Dorman - April 29, 2015 at 02:08 PM

GB

*We are lifting you up in prayer. You all are a sweet family who means so much to us.
God bless you,
Greg & Ginger Bowman*

Greg Bowman - April 29, 2015 at 04:02 PM

SI

Irene had a great sense of humor. This is from an e mail she sent just last month, under the heading THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT:

I love my job ----- I can see my parked car on the cameras and can watch it all day long. I was feeling a little ornery today. One of the attorneys that I am not too fond of sat on my car and was talking to someone. When I saw him sit down on my car, I went to the front door of the courthouse and pushed my car alarm button. You should have seen how fast he moved. Ha Ha!!!

Sim Israeloff

Sim Israeloff - April 30, 2015 at 12:26 PM