



Freida Byrd

September 15, 1941 - June 25, 2012

A Memorial service for Freida Chelf Byrd, 70, of Tyler, will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 3:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jeff Gage officiating. Freida was born September 15, 1941, and passed away peacefully on June 25, 2012 under the care of Hospice of East Texas. Freida had a long and storied career with Roadrunner, Total, and most recently, FastFood Corporation. She loved to travel with friends and family on cruises, weekends to the boats, and anywhere else an outbound vehicle would take her. Freida had a vivacious spirit for life; she was a 17 year breast cancer survivor who didn't let anything slow her down. Freida's incredible smile and laughter is something many friends and family will remember most about her. Strangers were only friends Freida had not yet met and this was evidenced by the many people who visited her in her last days. Freida spoke fondly of her family and kept them close to her heart. She had one granddaughter, who was the light of her life, with whom she cherished every moment and she was delighted when Harley moved to Tyler 6 years ago. She was deeply loved by many people and her untimely passing should remind everyone to not only live the length of your life but the width of it as well. She joins in Heaven her beloved father and mother, W.B. Chelf and Lydia Jane Chelf, and sister Brenda Sue Chelf. She is survived by her sons Michael Byrd of Tyler, Mitchell Byrd and wife Jennifer of Lindale; Granddaughter Harley Byrd of Lindale; sister Patsy Curry and husband James of Nacogdoches; niece Susan Bentley and family of Nacogdoches, and

nephew Ron Curry and family of Dallas. Visitation is scheduled from 2:00-3:00 PM on Wednesday, 27, 2012 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. If desired, memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75703.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Mike and Mitch,*

Sorry to hear about the loss of your Mom. She was a lovely lady. She will be missed by many. God is good all the time...All the time God is good! Hold her memories dear to your heart always!

Lisa Keeling Burkett

Lisa Burkett - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *We were only able to meet and chat with Freida on a few occasions over the past several years. But she was always friendly and good company. She will be missed at the family get togethers. Our hearts go out to Michael, Mitchell, Jhyne, and Harley.*

Jeff and Judy Hall - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *I had the most wonderful baby sister and so glad and happy that you were always around for me. Its going to be hard not to be able to pick up phone and call, but send me a Butterfly and let me know you looking down on me.*
We so lucky to have such a wonderful family. Our children I pray will stay close, but I am missing you so much already.
Love you Harley, Mitch, Jennifer and Mike, again thanks Paula for getting us threw all this.

Pat Curry - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Michael, Mitchell, Jennifer & Harley,*

I only know how very much I loved and do love your mother (and grandmother). I will miss her tremendously, as I know you all will. Freida was always such an inspiration to me, always so positive. I know one thing...if I didn't want an honest answer from her - don't ask!!!! Sometimes I got the answer and didn't even ask the question! She was a true blessing to me and I told her that often. How she loved all of you and was so proud of you all. Harley, she LOVED the days you spent together...shopping, whatever!

You will all be in my prayers. You have my number, should there be anything I can do for any of you.

Kelly French - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *So glad to have known her. Always enjoyed her presence at family gatherings. Am so glad she and Harley had the close relationship they had. It's important to have family ties in this digital age. She will be missed.*

Teigland Family - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ I was so lucky to have a friend like Freida. She loved life and had the most positive attitude of any person I have ever known. I never heard Freida gossip or say anything negative about another person and she always saw the good in everyone. She had a wonderful ability to keep everyone walking the line. She always knew when to offer advice and when to just listen and offer her support. She touched so many hearts with her kindness and was always thinking about doing something good for someone, especially the under privileged children in Tyler. Whenever I have had tough times I often have thought "What would Freida do?". I always knew she would take the high road and stay positive no matter what. I will continue to let her light shine in my heart and will always be grateful for her influence on my life.

Debra Dial - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I knew Freida through the business relationship that Grocery Supply Company had with the Food Fast Company. We had conversed several times over the years by phone and email. She was a very nice lady and always very helpful with a wonderful attitude. I am so grateful that I had the priveledge to work with her. I never met her personally, but wished I had. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Barbara Moore - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *It's sad saying good bye to someone as special as Freida. She touched so many lives and was loved by so many people. To be a small woman she had a heart as big as Texas. Tyler has lost it's all american sweetheart. People like Frieda should live forever they make the world a much better place. Mommas are the glue that keep the family going.... She was the glue at Food Fast. Her love for life should be a lesson to everyone...We miss you Ms.Freida*

Brenda Starr - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ *Freida was the bright light for our most recent class reunion....the 50th! She brought her many assets such as patience, wonderful humor, ability to compromise, work with various ideas (many strange!)and just prove herself a true leader. She showed her proven friendliness, warm personality, and strong character to all. Trust me, as a fellow graduate of the class of 1959, there could not be a better example of perfection than Freida Byrd. She will be greatly missed and certainly was most beloved by all who knew her.*

Tom Gregory - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WP

“ I can't begin to say how sad it is to be writing a tribute to a friend who loved life so much. Over the years Freida and I being in the "older" group at Food Fast shared a close relationship much like sisters(maybe step-sisters). She always had an opinion and sometimes I disagreed with her --but not often. She was always the one who thought about other employees' birthdays, personal crises, etc. I know that she personally helped any of our office people who were in need.

She loved the girlfriends she had and spoke lovingly of them always planning a big weekend with one or all of them.

Her eyes would light up when speaking of her "Harley". How proud she was of her. She often spoke of how blessed she was and was looking forward to many more years but God chose to take her in His time. I know she must be in heaven now directing the next activity and smiling with that wide "Good Morning" greeting.

Goodbye Freida until we meet again. Love you, Wanda

Wanda Pilcher - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Freida has many friends who love her.*

She was one of a kind, living life to the fullest. She was so proud of her family. (She always posted Harley's first day of the new school year picture for us all to enjoy!) Ever thoughtful, she saw that we all felt special. When we hurt, she was kind and sympathetic. She had a true servant's heart and we will always remember her kindness.

She touched many lives. She leaves a great legacy.

With deepest sympathy to her family,

Penny

Penny Deibert - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Heaven has gained such a beautiful soul. Frieda had such a great spirit about her...always smiling and laughing. She was always so kind and helpful to us. Prayers to her family. She will be greatly missed.

Jeff and Teresa Misenheimer - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ We all admired her spirit and zest for life. She was truly an inspiration for doing -- never for sitting back and watching. We will miss her.

Kathleen Snow - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I am very sorry to hear of Freida's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. She had a lot of friends and she will be missed.

Karin Smith - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ I only knew Freida for a couple of years but she was a great lady!! She will be greatly missed by so many people.

Gina Davis - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM