



Jan Jones

November 9, 1940 - September 6, 2011

Jan E. Jones, 70, passed away Tuesday, September 6, 2011, surrounded by her loving friends. Visitation is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Stewart Family Funeral Home. Plans for a memorial tribute in honor of Jan's legacy will be forthcoming. Born on November 9, 1940 in Belton, Texas, Jan received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Speech, and English in 1963 from Mary Hardin-Baylor College. In 1980, she completed her Master of Arts in Theatre at Stephen F. Austin University. Greater Northeast Texas has been theatrically fed through her teaching and directing. Jan, or "Jones" as her students affectionately called her, began her teaching career in College Station at A&M Consolidated High School. She then moved to Tyler and taught at Robert E. Lee High School for 33 years, where she established an outstanding, award-winning theater program, recognized across the state of Texas. She also served on the Tyler Junior College-adjunct Faculty, before retiring. Retirement was a way for Jan to share her talents and expertise with others in our community. Therefore, after "retirement", she taught at All Saints Episcopal School, UT Tyler, and Trinity Valley Community College in Athens. Since last year, Jan has been teaching at East Texas Christian Academy. Throughout the years, she not only directed and taught for the Student Players of Tyler, Brickstreet Theater Children's program, S.T.A.R. and The Acting Conservatory at Tyler Civic Theater, but also her involvement extended to the Stephen F. Austin Summer Rep Company. She recently directed the popular Always...Patsy Cline production

at TCT. As a lifetime member of the Texas Educational Theatre Association and TETA's Adjudicator's Organization, Jan contributed her knowledge to educators and schools across the state and the nation. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including TETA's Founder's Award and Emeritus Award, Who's Who Among American Teachers, Robert E. Lee's Teacher of the Year, the SFA University 2005 Outstanding Theatre Alumni, and the UIL Southwestern Bell Sponsor Excellence Award. Jan was preceded in death by her parents, Norene Gist Jones and D.W. Jones. She is survived by: her dearest friend and sister of the heart, Judy Gross; her sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Boyce Vardiman, and her nieces, Rebecca Vardiman, Harriet Smith, and Deborah Vardiman, along with her extensive family of special friends. Memorials may be made to the Tyler Civic Theatre's S.T.A.R. scholarship program for children, 400 Rose Park Drive, Tyler, Texas 75702 or the Humane Society of East Texas, Post Office Box 6151, Tyler, Texas 75711.

Tribute Wall

BA

“ *For a wonderful person and a great teacher. Prayers and God bless always. Love, Blain Albright*

Blain Albright - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Our paths crossed many times through a span of twenty years. My three children: Karen Marshall, Doug Marshall, and Ben Marshall were instructed by Jan at Lee. Jan was a friend to them, and not many students can say that of their teacher! We were brought together at different functions and enjoyed "catching up", with mostly, "How are the kids"? She is to be admired for her love, her endurance and dedication to teaching. She will be missed.*

Boo Marshall - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ We are so very sorry about the loss of your dear loved one. Our thoughts and prayers go out especially to Judy and to Jan's other family members. We know how close Judy and Jan were for so many years. Losing your best friend and chosen sister is a great loss.

Jan will be deeply missed by all of the people who knew and loved her. She believed in giving of herself for the betterment of everyone near her. While Jan taught theater, she also taught the lessons in life that provide a guide for being a successful and responsible person. She was a remarkable lady who believed in her students and made sure that they performed at their highest level. Sharing her talents was especially important to Jan, and her contributions to the community were many. . We know that you will miss her so very much as will all the people whose lives she touched on her journey in this world. Jan will live forever in the hearts, memories, and lives of all those who knew her.

Hedwig and John Hardie

Hedwig and John Hardie - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Outside my church youth group, the REL theater, backstage, and speech trips was how I spent a great deal of time. Working on plays together, we really got to know each other well. "Jones" through the REL drama department created a place of belonging, growing, learning, and just fun for those of us involved in the program, even if we weren't so talented on the stage. Many of the skills I learned through Jones are applicable to current life situations. Many appreciation to "Jones" and other teachers who invest in students inside and outside the classroom.

Carol Halbrooks Hylden - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ It was my pleasure to meet and get to know Jan last year. What a special and memorable lady! She will be missed.

Stephanie Christian - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Jan Jones was a neat lady who leaves a rich legacy. Praying for you all as you grieve the loss of such a wonderful person!

Amy Fenton Lee - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Judy,

I am so deeply sorry for your loss. At times like these words mean so little. My prayer for you and the family is that God will comfort you today and all the days to come.

Susan Wade

Susan Wade - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Judy and the rest of Jan's family during this most difficult time. I will always remember Jan as a "difference maker" to her many students and friends touched by her passion and commitment to excellence. She was a joy on Earth and will no doubt make a great impact in heaven as she "directs" the angels in the greatest show of all. Blessings to Judy and the rest of the family.

*Love,
Karen Lanford*

Karen Lanford - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I was one of many UIL academic coaches at R.E.Lee that worked with Jan. She was a wonderful person, a good friend, and a great teacher. My condolences to Judy and Jan's family. Jan will be greatly missed.

Margaret Adame Trott - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AO

“ In my eyes, Jan was definitely an icon in the Northeast Texas Educational Theatre region. Having met Jan for the first time in 1984, she already had a legacy and wonderful reputation that preceded her. The professionalism, enthusiasm, and strong passion she brought to every theatrical project was amazing but it was also coupled with a compassion and honesty for all who collaborated on those creative endeavors.

However, I will also remember her carefully chosen words and her hearty and robust laugh that would engender endearment. I recall the saying: "Some people come into our lives, and quickly go. Others stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same." Jan E. Jones was one of those people.

Judy and family, I extend my sincerest condolences and hope that all the wonderful memories you shared with Jan will comfort you now and forever.

Jan- May "flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.!"

Allen Oster - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Thanks for lighting the path.... For more than 30 years we have watched you both live out loud, laugh wildly and love completely.

Carol Herring - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KU

“ Thinking of you and all of the happy memories.
Kelley Evans Uzzell

Kelley Uzzell - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ We send our deepest condolences and prayers to all of Jan's family and friends during this time. She was a wonderful, friend, mentor and teacher. She will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,
Laura and Kevin Hickerson

Laura (Wylie) Hickerson - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Jan's friendship of many years as well as the most wonderful memories will assure that Jan will live forever in my heart. Her contributions to our community and, most especially, to the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands of young people will keep her memory alive for years to come.

Blessings to Judy and their menagerie of loving kitties and puppy dogs. Rest well Jan.....you are forever loved and cherished.

Tom Gregory - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Jan will be missed by many! Her legacy will live on thru the many people she taught and touched. Thanks to Jan for sharing her talent with so many.

Carleta Cates - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM