



## Kathleen "Kay" Robinson

May 5, 1936 - January 20, 2014

A celebration of life for Kathleen "Kay" Friedli Robinson, 77, of Tyler, will be held on Saturday, January 25 at 3:30 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler with Dr. Paul Powell officiating. Family visitation will immediately follow the service.

Interment will be at Sparkman Hillcrest Mausoleum in Dallas, Texas under the direction of Sparkman Hillcrest Funeral Home and Cemetery.

Mrs. Robinson passed away peacefully in the presence of her loving family on January 20, 2014 in Houston, Texas. She was born May 5, 1936 in Peoria, Illinois to John Calvin and Catherine Mairgret Friedli.

Kay's adventurous Illinois childhood included ice skating on ponds, ballet and toe dancing during the winter. At the beginning of each summer, she rode the train to Sheboygan to spend her summer at Lake Michigan. She spent her summers in a cottage on the shore of Lake Michigan where she and her cousins rode horses on the beach and reconnected with the local children for summer fun and mischief.

Upon moving to Dallas at the age of 14, she quickly made new friends and continued her love of lake activities and school dances around White Rock Lake. Kay graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas and then

attended the University of Oklahoma where she was a member of the Chi Omega sorority.

In 1964, Kay's husband was transferred to Tyler. Tyler quickly became a new home town for their family. Her early career included a position with the late Texas Senator Peyton McKnight which she described as a "most fascinating, exciting experience" and then a management position at the Tyler office of the Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts.

In 1985, city leaders including Dub Riter, Henry Bell Jr., Bill Martin, and Bob Randall helped establish the Better Business Bureau which was also a project of the Chamber's Economic Development Council. The Tyler BBB office opened in 1985 with the Longview BBB office opening in 1998. Kay served as the first president of the Bureau, which served 19 East Texas counties until her retirement in August 2009.

During Kay's tenure at the Bureau, she served on the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce board, the Crisis Center board, the Tyler Area Builders Association board, the Zonta board, the Mayor's Anti-Crime Task Force, the Clean Tyler Commission, and the Chamber's Senior Resource Committee. She is a graduate of Leadership Foundation of New East Texas Class III and was a Leadership Tyler Class VIII participant. She was a member of Tyler Rotary and Tyler Executive Women's Network. She also enjoyed a Bridge club, of over 30 years, of life-long Tyler friends.

Kay enjoyed adventure, both in her career and personal life. She was always ready to have fun and her favorite vacation spots were "anywhere near the ocean, lake, or on a boat." Kay and her husband, Tom Robinson, shared a love of animals, traveling with friends, and especially boating at Lake Tyler. Kay's happiest times were with her husband Tom, their children, and grandchildren while on their barge at Lake Tyler and during family holidays in

Granbury, Texas.

Kay is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Edward Robinson, Jr., parents John Calvin and Catherine Maigret Friedli, and her daughter Shannon Lyn Herrin.

She is survived by her loving family including a daughter Cherie Herrin King and her husband Steve of Flint; brother John David Friedli of Dallas; stepson Thomas E. Robinson III and his wife Liz of Austin; grandchildren Matthew Stephen Goughnour and Katy Shannon Goughnour, of Houston, and Thomas E. Robinson IV and Merrill A. Robinson, of Austin; nephew John D. Friedli, Jr. and his wife Onika of Trinidad.

If desired, memorials may be made to any Hospice organization; Shriners' Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607; or a charity of choice.

# Previous Events

## Mem. Service

JAN 25. 3:30 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ I was a teenager when Kay and my brother married. What I remember is how much fun she was, had a wonderful laugh and a beautiful smile. Her taste was impeccable. I just cleaned out my 98 year old mother's house (Kay's former mother-in-law) and saw gifts that were picked out by Kay still in their original boxes yellowed with time but carefully and lovingly stored. When I opened the box, I could feel Kay's presence. The contents were beautiful gowns and robes. Kay also had the strength and courage to see her daughter Shannon through her difficult health issues and her ultimate death before her 18th birthday. Kay was the consummate homemaker and devoted mother and then was able to become an East Texas treasure. She will be missed by all who knew her. Cherie my heart goes out to you and Matt and Katy and Johnny as well. Much love, Auntie Marilyn



Marilyn Herrin - January 24, 2014 at 09:14 PM

MH

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Marilyn Herrin - January 24, 2014 at 09:00 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



---

**Marilyn Herrin** - January 24, 2014 at 08:57 PM

JS

“ *The memories are too numerous to name. Kay was a faithful servant of the community, dedicated to her craft, a pleasure to work with, and an even greater pleasure just to know. To say she will be missed would be an understatement of the first order. My sincere condolences to the family and all others who were touched by Kay.*

*John Sims*

---

**John Sims** - January 23, 2014 at 03:12 PM

PW

“ *Kay has been a wonderful friend to Benny and I for more than 60 years. We have spent a lot of fun times with her. She will truly be missed. Our condolences go out to her family. We loved her. Pat & Benny*

---

**Pat Ward** - January 22, 2014 at 06:46 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Robinson.*



---

January 22, 2014 at 05:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Robinson.



January 21, 2014 at 11:27 AM



“ Kay certainly leaves a legacy! Many people remember her professionally as the 1st President of the Better Business Bureau. I had the pleasure of helping to induct her into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in May of 2010 at a ceremony at Hollytree Country Club. What a deserving laureate she was for that award!

*Jim Guay*  
*Junior Achievement*

**Jim Guay** - January 21, 2014 at 09:15 AM



*Kay and I had many talks as EO's of Tyler organizations. She was always the same sweet person whenever you saw her. So sorry to lost this great lady.*  
*Gloria Gilley*

**Gloria Gilley** - January 22, 2014 at 09:35 AM



“ Petrofac purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Robinson.



**Petrofac** - January 20, 2014 at 03:24 PM