



## Linda Claudette Mathews Houck

October 8, 1938 - January 15, 2019

A memorial service for Linda Claudette Mathews Houck, 80, of Tyler, Texas will be held at a later date to be announced by family.

Linda passed away peacefully on January 15, 2019 in Tyler at Oak Hills Terrace Memory Care Center, after a long illness. She was born October 8, 1938 in El Dorado, Arkansas to Winona Hawkins Mathews and James Lyndel Mathews.

Linda was a member of Lane's Chapel United Methodist Church. She was a homemaker who loved creating and keeping a beautiful home and working in the yard. She attended Southern Arkansas University for three years, where she met her husband of 57 years, F.R. "Randy" Houck. After they married, she enjoyed traveling and living in many different parts of the U.S. and the world, as her husband's work entailed. Linda always embraced a spirit of adventure! Linda's interests included homemaking, gardening, writing poetry, and oil painting – and rescuing as many animals as came her way. She was a lifelong student of the Bible and loved testifying about God's grace. Linda was full of energy and creativity. She especially loved children and animals. She worked with the Cub Scouts and also taught Sunday school for children for many years in different locales and she delighted in the smiles and laughter and creativity of children. She was especially fond of her many great-grandchildren and she thought they were all beautiful and perfect. One of her favorite events was when family members would put together "talent shows" – she was very proud of her creative family.

In her diary, it was interesting to note that her first and last entries were about her husband – when they met and when he passed away. He was the love of her life.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her loving family including daughter, Melanie Poland and her husband Michael; her son, Kirby Houck and his love Anne; her son Grayson Houck; and her three sisters – Grace, Donna, and Maggie and their families. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren, who called her “MamaLin,” as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family. She also has friends and family scattered across many states and countries. Linda loved animals of every type. If desired, donations may be made in her memory to the SPCA. To do so, please log on to [www.spcaeasttx.com](http://www.spcaeasttx.com) and follow the prompts to donate, or send a check or money order to SPCA of East Texas, PO Box 132899, Tyler, TX 75713. Linda would absolutely love that!

# Tribute Wall

Susan  
Luke

“ A mother is a very special person in a child's life. They are the ones we can always depend on and will defend us even when they know we are wrong. Linda Houck was one of those mothers. She raised 3 beautiful, smart and caring children. The eldest of her children is Melanie .I've known Melanie for over 20 years. When she introduced me to her parents I thought, "Wow, Melanie's parents are REALLY special people! Her dad, Randy, was so full of life and always had some kind of story to tell. He always called Linda "My bride." That would choke me up every time. Her mom, "MamaLin," loved people and had such a natural curiosity about life. They always made me feel welcome and the little twinkle in there eyes always told me how much they loved me. MamaLin was an artist, homemaker, wrote poems, sewed, loved animals, was a great mother and a great wife to her high-spirited, adventurous husband. No matter where she rested her head at night she called home. And she was absolutely over the moon in love with her 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She will be missed here on earth by so many of us, but just knowing that she is healthy and with her husband and loved ones is more than I could ask for. Melanie, your mom and dad are proud of you.



Linda, this saying reminds me of you: "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, and nothing is so gentle as real strength". We will love and miss you always.

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Susan Luke - January 17, 2019 at 11:43 PM

AW

“ So sorry for your loss. No words can take the hurt away but just know we are all praying for all of you and thinking of you.

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Aaron and Jana Wynn - January 17, 2019 at 09:24 PM

DC

“ *Melanie, so glad you are able to celebrate your precious Mom's life. It's clear that she is not gone but lives on through you , not only in your sweet face but in your talents and zest for life. May God's peace and comfort be with you . Prayers and Love.*

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**David and Sharon Crowl** - January 17, 2019 at 06:20 PM



“ *My dear Melanie and her beautiful family. Words can seem a bit hollow at times like this. Just know that you are loved by both family and friends. We are praying for you during this very painful time. My heartfelt condolences.*

*Jeanette Hall  
Chandler, TX*



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**Jeanette Hall** - January 17, 2019 at 03:18 PM



“ Our cousin Jeffrey Howard shared these Metalica lyrics with me regarding my parents, and it really fits their life - thank you, Jeff!

*"But I'll take my time anywhere  
Free to speak my mind anywhere  
And I'll redefine anywhere  
Anywhere I roam, where I lay my head is home*

*I adapt to the unknown, under wandering stars I've grown  
By myself but not alone, I ask no one*

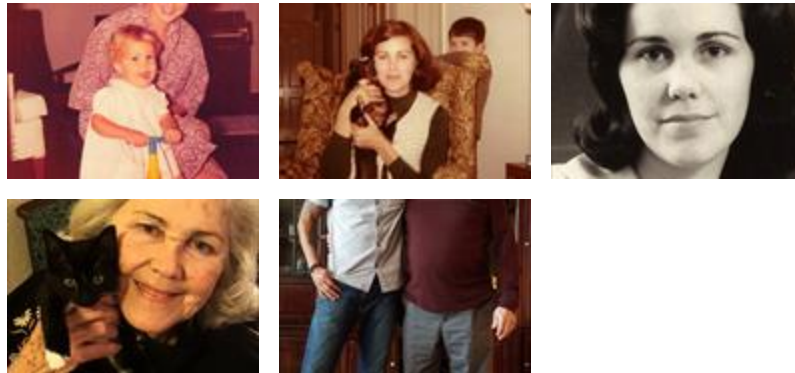
*And my ties are severed clean  
The less I have the more I gain, off the beaten path I reign  
Rover, wanderer, nomad, vagabond  
Call me..."*

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**Melanie Poland** - January 17, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ 31 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Melanie Poland** - January 17, 2019 at 08:05 AM