



Mildred Whitaker

December 14, 1939 - March 31, 2007

Services for Mildred Catherine "Kay" Andrews Whitaker, 67, Whitehouse, will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 1:00 pm at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Revs. Tim McKeown and Dale Perry officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Burial will be at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at Chidester Cemetery in Chidester, AR. Mrs. Whitaker went to be with her Lord and Savior Saturday, March 31, 2007. She was born December 14, 1939 in Camden, Arkansas to the late Buster E. and Mildred Frances Walker Gean. Mrs. Whitaker grew up in Hearne, Texas graduating from Hearne High School in 1957. She attended Baylor University and graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She later received her Masters Degree in Education from SMU. She began her teaching career near Waco soon after college and taught in Tyler at John Tyler and then Robert E. Lee High Schools. Kay taught English for over 30 years retiring in 1997. She was very passionate about her students, and instilled in them a love of learning, often appearing in the classroom dressed in "flapper attire" as F. Scott Fitzgerald's Zelda. A strong advocate for the talented and gifted, she inspired each of her students to "march to the beat of a different drummer" in honor of her favorite author, Henry David Thoreau. She was a member of Friendly Baptist Church and enjoyed reading, camping, tai chi and traveling. However, her favorite thing to do was spending time with family and she loved putting on a "Mimi Camp" for her grandchildren. She is survived by her loving family including her husband of 11 years, Danny Whitaker; her daughters,

Linda Andrews Wachel of Dallas, Amy Andrews McClendon and husband Frank O. McClendon IV of Plano; her son, Wes Alan Whitaker and wife Heather Whitaker of Whitehouse; and six grandchildren, Meredith Lindsay and Madison Taylor Wachel of Dallas, Mitchell Andrew and Megan Catherine McClendon of Plano, Jaymie and Alyssa Whitaker of Whitehouse. Pallbearers will be Wes Whitaker, Wayne Whitaker, Greg Stone, Ron Smith, Gaylen Gage and Jimmy Rogers. The family will receive friends from 6-8 pm Monday, April 2, 2007 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., Tyler, Texas 75703. Memorials in honor of Kay Whitaker may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of your choice. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

MT

“ I had heard of Kay from my mother as they taught together, then Mother graded Kay's English class papers. I had the pleasure of meeting Kay when I was assigned to student teach under her guidance. I am so glad that she agreed to take me as she didn't want a student teacher. Thus began a wonderful friendship that I treasure. She taught me so much about teaching and life. We shared a love for literature, reading, movies, bridge, and traveling. Her courage during this last illness was great. Kay was loved by her children, grandchildren, and husband and her friends and her students. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Margaret Adame Trott - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ We were saddened to learn of Kay's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. It was our pleasure to have had Kay as a friend and neighbor for many years on Regency Lane, as well as, a wonderful teacher at Robert E. Lee. Her wonderful encouraging ways and pretty smile will be missed by many. Melvin, Rena & Family

Rena & Melvin Stiefel - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Dear Linda and family members,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. May God's comfort and peace be ever present.

Much Love,

Beth and Jerry Andrews and the Library Team at Park Cities Baptist Church

Beth Andrews - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *I first got to know Kay back in '86-'87 when she started the PSAT summer prep program for the district, and I was one of her first teachers. She, Kathy Gandillon, Debbie Hitt, and I did the program together for many fun years -- with good times at Luby's Cafeteria, nights at REL with the kids and the cockroaches (which she hated!), and serious times teaching and planning and waiting for scores to come in. Kay had such contagious energy and drive, and she "infected" those around her. She was a wonderful teacher, a good friend, and she will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Pam Bohn - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Kay was a wonderful friend and teacher. I taught English at REL with her for several years and she would come to my room as "Zelda". Kaye's mother, Mildred, lived behind my mother at Towne Oaks and was the first person to take my mom to her Sunday school class. Please know that all of you are in my prayers and thoughts. I know Kay is probably teaching English in Heaven right now! God bless.*

Janice McGowen

Janice McGowen - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ *It seems only yesterday that Kay and I were young teachers at Lee. The years at Lee, friends and the experiences we had there and will be remembered always. Kay was a friend and respected by all who knew her. My sympathy for your loss.*

Pat Eppler - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *We are so very sorry about the loss of your dear loved one. Her family was always foremost in her life. Listening to Kay talk was a testimony to the love she had for all of you.*

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. As a teacher she always worked to instill the love of learning in her students. Above this goal, she inspired everyone to reach far and believe that success could be achieved. She believed in the true worth of everyone and helped people see that value in themselves. Her positive influence over her students will live on as her legacy.

Working with Kay for many years at REL was a privilege. I treasure the times that we shared together. She always had a beautiful smile for everyone she met. She was so helpful, thoughtful, and sincere.

The beautiful memories of Kay and the love everyone has for her in their hearts will keep her close forever.

Our prayers are with all of you.

Hedwig and John Hardie

John and Hedwig Hardie - March 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM