



Catherine Whitaker

April 26, 2020

Catherine “Cathy” Brooke Whitaker, devoted wife, beloved mother, treasured sister and friend, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on Sunday, April 26, 2020, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 65.

Catherine “Cathy” Brooke Whitaker was born on March 16, 1955, to John and Ruth Brooke in Topeka, Kansas. She grew up in Topeka and graduated from Hayden High School in 1974. On October 23, 1981, she married the love of her life, Mike Whitaker, and they began their family three years later with the birth of their daughter, Kellie, followed by the birth of their twins, Kevin and Kristen. Cathy and Mike were married thirty years, until his passing in 2012.

Cathy was raised in the Catholic faith in Topeka, and spent many happy years there raising her children and taking care of her family, while also enjoying a long tenure at Blue Cross Blue Shield and EDS. In 2002, Mike was transferred to Fort Worth, Texas, where he continued his career at BNSF Railway Company and Cathy spent the remainder of her work life at Humana Behavioral Health before retiring in 2015. After settling in to their home in Keller, Texas, Cathy became a member of Gateway Church in Fort Worth, where she worshiped and developed many close friendships.

She enjoyed numerous hobbies throughout her life, including painting

ceramics, crafting, antique shopping, and traveling with her much-loved sisters and friends. She also enjoyed lively games of bunko and pokeno, and practicing yoga with her “tribe”. No joy compared, however, to that of being grandma to her precious grandson and two delightful granddaughters. She was a fun and loving grandma and nothing made her eyes sparkle more than when she was spending time with them.

Survivors include her daughters, Kellie Whitaker, Kristen Stogdill and her husband Kenneth, her son, Kevin Whitaker and his girlfriend, Kristi, grandson Keating Stogdill, and granddaughters Aubrey Gomez and McKenna Whitaker. Cathy is also survived by her dearly loved siblings, John Brooke, Jr. and his wife Sally, Ellie Brooke, Carole Shapiro and her husband Dave, Ruth Droste and her husband Dan, Sandy MacGill and her husband Dave, Sue Schell and her husband Gregg, Janice Brooke, Michael Brooke, and many nieces and nephews.

Cathy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Mike Whitaker, mother, Ruth Capeless Brooke, father, John Brooke, Sr., brothers, Jim and Dan, and her sister, Barbara.

Visitation will be Saturday, May 29, 2021, from 10-11 a.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Cathy’s graveside service will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cancer Support Community North Texas at www.cancersupporttexas.org or P.O. Box 12688, Dallas, TX 75255.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Graveside Service

MAY 29. 11:30 AM (CT)

Mount Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Tribute Wall



“ Catherine Whitaker

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I worked with your dad in the late 1970 at the department of correction in Topeka, he was my supervisor and friend, I attended the wedding of your parents. Even after your family moved to Texas we always exchanged Christmas cards and letters I always enjoyed the news about your family. I did not realize he had passed till I read your mothers obituary. you all have my deepest sympathy. I was sadden to learn of both of their passing. you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Mary Jane Hoffer*

Mary Jane Hoffer - May 27, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ *To all family members ~ I knew Mike and Cathy for many years, last saw them both at Christ The King Catholic Church in Topeka. I was greatly saddened when Mike passed, and last year when I read of Cathy's passing, my prayers were increased for their children and grandchildren. I know how devoted Mike and Cathy were to each other and I pray that you will remember all the good loving memories. Stay close to each other and celebrate your ties. Peace to you all.*

Sally Klumpe - May 27, 2021 at 08:55 AM

BV

“ Catherine I did not know you but my x boyfriend just past from pancreatic cancer and my brother has stage four pancreatic cancer also at 61. He is a year older than me. I know it is relentless and I wish you eternal peace in the House of the Lord. I am so sorry for the family that is left behind, you sound like a good woman.

BVW - May 26, 2021 at 09:23 AM