



Kathryn "Katie" Harris

November 9, 1929 - August 18, 2006

Kathryn "Katie" Lorraine Harris, age 77, of Topeka, passed away peacefully on Aug 18, 2006, at Lexington, Park Nursing Home Facility,

Kathryn was born on Nov 9, 1929, in Spencer, NE, the daughter of a principal and optometrist, Benjamin & Hazel Jackson Gerdes. She was a 1947 graduate of Hawarden High School. She attended college at UNI, Waterloo, IA, where she received her BA in Education. She continued her education at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, where in 1951 she received her doctorate in Optometry. It was there that Kathryn met her future husband, William Houston, Harris, Jr. They were married Oct 21, 1950. After graduation Will & Katie Harris moved to Bedford, IA to open their own optometry practice and began their family. While in Bedford she ran the Lake of Three Fires. After retiring Kathryn moved to Topeka, KS. She became a paraprofessional at the Quincy Elementary School where she tutored children with learning disabilities.

Kathryn had many passions, such as gardening, antiques & quilting. She was a blood drive organizer and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Kathryn was preceded in death by her husband, William Harris, her son, Daniel Harris, her parents, Ben & Hazel Gerdes & her brother Garry Gerdes.

She is survived by her children, Dennis Harris, Topeka; Valery Norton, Las Vegas, NV; Dean Harris, Holly Springs, NC; ten grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren; her sister, Elinda "Lindie" Ross and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held Sun, Aug 20 at Alan Ritchie Funeral Home, Bedford, IA.

Memorial contributions may be made to Quincy Elementary School

Tribute Wall



“ Kathryn "Katie" Harris

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ dearest dennis, val, deanie and families, I am so sorry to hear Katie had passed away. it is so hard to lose a parent as you already know, I miss my dad so much. we had so much fun growing up together, and have lots of memories. All of my friends and myself truly miss Danny. He is always in our thoughts. God bless to all of you and truly wish we could have been at the service. Love to you all. sincerely, craig and teresa(toots cross) stroburg

craig & teresa stroburg - August 29, 2006 at 04:25 PM



“ To Dennis, Valarie, and Dean, We were very sorry to hear about your Mother. As you know our families had a lot of years together, when all you kids were in school together. We would have loved to see you at the funeral, but we were at the State Fair and didn't hear about Katie until we got home Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Your friends always.

Keith & Gerry Farrens - August 28, 2006 at 03:47 PM

JF

“ *Dennis, Dean, Val and Families:*

I read of the passing of your mother and wanted to let you know that we in the Shupe family are thinking of you and saying a prayer.

Due, in part, to the history of our families, I do not need to review the obvious. Let it simply be said that while another chapter of a life ends, the endless legacy they leave is what is cherished.

Additionally, people like your mom will forever have a place in our hearts for the kindness she taught us and the lessons learned.

May Peace Be With You

Jack

Jack Shupe & Family - August 24, 2006 at 03:37 PM

KE

“ *I taught with Kathryn at Quincy Elementary. I knew she was ill, but I never heard her complain or even mention her illness. She was dedicated to her work and the children she taught. My family's prayers are with your family. Kathy Edsall*

Kathleen Edsall - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 PM

MR

“ *Dr. Harris,*

Remembering you and your family in our prayers. Sorry to hear of the loss of your mother.

Hold on tight to your memories during this difficult time. Sounds as if your mother lived life to the fullest and enjoyed herself.

Keep your eyes turned to the Lord and He will give you strength during this time.

Deepest sympathy,

Margery Reed and family

Margery Reed - August 21, 2006 at 09:44 AM