



M. Diane Gilstrap Kendall

April 14, 1960 - December 14, 2004

M. Diane Gilstrap Kendall, 44, Topeka, passed away Tues., Dec. 14, 2004 at her home of natural causes.

Diane was born April 14, 1960 in Topeka, the daughter of William and Esther Clark Gilstrap. Diane married Edward J. Kendall in 1983. They divorced. Diane was a graduate of Topeka High School, Class of 1978. She was a graduate of Washburn University with a bachelor degree in Education with an emphasis in early childhood development. Diane was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. She was currently employed by USD 501 at Hope Street Academy.

She leaves to cherish her memory a daughter, Kathryn "Katy" Kendall, Topeka; her parents William and Esther Clark Gilstrap; her sisters, Julie Reid, Topeka and Kelley Kimery and her husband, Chris, Shawnee; a brother, Greg Gilstrap and his wife, Mary, Anthem, AZ.; nieces and nephews, Erin and Megan Reid, Andrew, Amanda and William Gilstrap, and Griffin Kimery.

Diane's true joy in life was her daughter, Katy, and her family, especially her nieces and nephews. She was at her happiest when she was working with babies and children, who flourished under her care. There are many children in Topeka who have benefited from Diane's love for children and her work in the 501 School District and other child care agencies over the years. Her

bright smile and easy laugh will always be remembered by these children, her family and friends.

Diane was cremated. Memorial services will be at 12:00 p.m. Saturday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd. Private inurnment will be at Memorial Park Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Diane Kendall Memorial Fund for Kathy Kendall's Education, in care of Commerce Bank & Trust, PO Box 5049, Topeka KS, 66605 Attn: Rita Lavin or to the Shawnee County Family Resource Center, 400 SW Oakley, Topeka, KS. 66606.

Tribute Wall



“ *M. Diane Gilstrap Kendall*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *August 13 was my birthday, and it was that day I had bought a computer, as I began to learn how to use it I met a very special person, Diane! I will never forget her or what she meant to me! Katy I often think of you and your mother, and your grand parents, Uncle and Aunts. I just now read of your Grandmother's passing! I thought that I would sign your mother's Guest book while I was here! I am so sorry I didn't know about her death, for I would have come to the funeral! God Bless you, only Happiness is what I wish and pray for you!*

Allen Herrin - July 03, 2011 at 04:13 PM



“ *Seems late now, but I went to Randolph Elementary School with Diane. I look back with fondness at my old class pictures from that time. They are, by the way, posted on my Facebook page. Just search for my name. It's always sad to hear of a classmate passing, so memories fill in the void left by their absence.*

Jerry Robison - May 19, 2010 at 10:14 AM

NC

“ Katy,
Lacey was very fortunate to have Diane as her teacher at Parkdale Preschool. She loved going there because Diane was there. We saw Diane at the Gage Park train earlier this year, and she looked happy like always. We will always remember her smile and her laugh. Our prayers are with you.

Nicole and Lacey Clark - December 21, 2004 at 05:24 PM

CG

“ Katy and family, Nicole and Natalie were fortunate to have Diane watch after them in Parkdale Preschool. We were blessed to have had her in our lives. Nicole looked through her preschool pictures and found one of her and Diane at graduation. Natalie still has a doll that Diane gave her for her birthday. We saw Diane just a few months ago at Dillons. She came to the van to say hi to the kids. She looked good and was happy. I am so glad we ran into her. We will forever remember her smile and laugh. God bless you and comfort you during this most difficult time.

Chris, Nicole and Natalie Graves - December 20, 2004 at 04:10 PM

GL

“ Ester and family,

Ester, I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God Bless!

Gerri Lierz

Gerri Lierz - December 19, 2004 at 05:18 PM

BB

“ I'm sending my condolences to Katy, who was in This Generation with me. Katy, I hope this message finds you well, and that my thoughts and prayers are with you now. All my love. Brian

Brian Burkett - December 19, 2004 at 02:01 PM

BB

“ M. Diane Gilstrap Kendall

Brian Burkett - December 19, 2004 at 01:57 PM

WB

“ Brady Family of Atchison & Lillis-Irish Creek express our condolences.

Wm Brady - December 18, 2004 at 08:30 PM

PP

“ Dear Esther, Bill & Family. Howard called this morning to tell me of your loss. Words cannot express how sorry I am. God Bless, Phyllis

Phyllis Baker Pine - December 18, 2004 at 05:53 PM

MH

“ Katy and family, sending you our love, thoughts, and prayers through this tough time. It was always great knowing we had such wonderful friends right next door and you will always be in our hearts.

Mike, Judy, & Heidi Hudson - December 18, 2004 at 01:04 PM

VA

“ Katy, Emily and I are sorry to learn about your mother. She was always so happy that you had two playmates as neighbors. Your "former" neighbors, Vicki Arnett and Emily Thompson

Vicki Arnett - December 17, 2004 at 06:59 PM

EW

“ Katy, I'm sorry to hear about your Mom. I may not have known her, but I can tell by the way you are that she must have been wonderful. You are in my prayers.

Emily Wilkes - December 17, 2004 at 03:01 PM

PW

“ Katy, I am so sorry to hear about your mother. Thank you so much for sharing her with so many children who felt she was their second mom. My son Cameron loves her so much. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Paula

Paula Waters - December 17, 2004 at 01:21 PM

TA

“ Katy, I got an email from Mary Jane that your mother had passed. Please know that all of the Upsilon Alpha Phis, including the Advisory Board, are here for you. We keep you in our thoughts during this difficult time. You are a wonderful young woman, and I'm sure your mother was very proud of you.

Tricia Kyler Bowling (Alpha Phi Advisor) - December 17, 2004 at 11:09 AM

SM

“ I'm sending condolences to Katy, who was in Washburn Choir with me, and who is a fellow alum of WRHS This Generation. Katy, I'm so sorry, sweetie. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Stacy Myers - December 16, 2004 at 06:01 PM

KH

“ Both of my children were in the daycare program at Parkdale. Chelsea and Austin Hodison, as well as my husband and I adored Diane. I told her many times that she was their "daytime Mommy". My children always and still do refer to Diane as "My Diannie". One of the hardest things to hear was of her passing, and even harder was to tell my children. Katy is such a legacy to her Mom. To Diane's family "thank you for sharing Diannie with us". My children's lives have been enriched. God Bless You. Kay

Kay Hodison - December 16, 2004 at 10:45 AM