



## Terry Roberts

December 18, 1956 - January 16, 2025

Terry Lee Roberts, 68, Topeka, Kansas, entrepreneur, avid horse and dog lover, cowgirl at heart, passed away Thursday, January 16, 2025.

Terry was born December 18, 1956, the daughter of Donald Hale (Virginia) and Ruth Domingues Hale, in Columbia, Kentucky but grew up in Topeka. At a young age, Terry married Bud Shirley and they had two sons. Terry was a busy mother raising her boys, being involved with all their activities, even taking Karate lessons with them. She was very active teaching aerobics and even doing marathons. Her love for horses led her to train them and compete with them, in shows and barrel racing. All through her life, Terry had a love for dogs and a favorite of hers from childhood was a German Shepherd named Dixie.

Terry went to nursing school late in life and eventually received an associate's degree in business. She was motivated and self-driven always. In 2004, Terry founded Midwest Cremation Society and in 2012, opened the doors of her facility at SE 37th and Adams, all the time accomplishing the needs of families she served with kindness and dignity. Towards the end of her life, Terry accomplished her dream of moving back to the farm where she could again spend time watching her beloved horses.

Grateful to have shared Terry's life are her son, Justin Shirley (Crystal);

grandchildren, Madison N. Shirley, Matthew J. Shirley and Walker H. Shirley; her sister, Donna Fernkopf (Nick); and cousins, nieces and nephews. Terry was preceded in death by her father, Donald Hale, her mother, Ruth Hale, her sister, Sherry Stratton, and her son Matthew John Shirley.

A Celebration of Terry's Life will be Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Helping Hands Humane Society or SCARS (Second Chance Animal Refuge Society) and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 1. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ My heart goes out to everyone who knew and loved Terry. The memories she has left with us will be cherished forever. We have been good friends since Junior High, what great adventures we have had! Terry was one of the strongest, most compassionate woman that I have known. I feel blessed to call her my friend. See you on the other side dear!💕💕

Pam Julian - February 01, 2025 at 11:44 AM

MB

“ Terry, I will miss you, my friend! To Justin, Donna and family, you are in my prayers.

Marta Barron - January 19, 2025 at 10:32 AM

BF

“ Justin and family, my condolences for the loss of your mother. She was a special lady.

Bobby Freeman - January 18, 2025 at 06:53 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Terry Roberts.



January 18, 2025 at 01:32 PM

AG

“ I am shocked.  
Outside of an actual relationship, I spent more time talking to you than any other woman in my lifetime, Miss Boss. About everything. You showed me kindness when I had nobody else, gave me a job, you were my next door neighbor. I can't believe this. I don't have the words.

*I will never forget you.  
Of that, you can be certain.*

*Farewell, until we meet once more, Ms Boss.*

*- Andy*

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**Andy Goodspeed** - January 18, 2025 at 12:26 PM

GG

“ I have great memories of Terry when we both worked at Restland in Dallas. I came in as a new person to the death care industry and learned a great deal from her. We had a great friendship outside work that I will always cherish. We lost touch over the years but I always knew that if I needed anything, she'd be there. RIP Terry!  
Love always, Gill

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**Gill Giddens** - January 18, 2025 at 06:31 AM

KL

“ Justin, Crystal and family, I am so sorry for the loss of such a beautiful woman. I have such wonderful memories of Terry. She was there when I got engaged in Colorado. We had some wonderful times together at the old Dutch Goose, Blind Tiger and she even let my son ride her horse. I had lost contact with her over the past few years, but I thought of her often. She was so passionate about her profession and provided a much needed service to this community. She will be dearly missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Sending you big hugs Justin. Love, Kim, Landon, Tuckyr and Beckim (Neel) Long

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**Kimberly Long** - January 18, 2025 at 05:19 AM

DV

“ I was a friend of Terry's when she & Bud lived at Carbondale with their young boys. We both rode horses & went to some shows together. We went to a fun night up at Tri County (Auburn) one night 1978. We did hangmans race. I was hanging, she ran around to get me on her tall horse. I got on & as we rounded the corner home, the saddle slipped & I went flying off. We had a lot of great times together. I had wondered for many years what happened to Terry. She was a wonderful friend & we laughed so much. My deepest condolences to her family. May all your wonderful memories bring you all great comfort and peace in the days ahead. Thanks for the memories Terry. RIP



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**Debbie Finlay Vaughn** - January 17, 2025 at 11:57 PM

CC

“ So sorry to hear of Terry's passing. I met her when she took care of my mom and she was so sweet and caring. I was crying my eyes out and she hugged me and said drink plenty of water and she said that was the nurse in her. She will be deeply missed and my condolences to her family.

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**Cathy Collins** - January 17, 2025 at 08:04 PM