



# Kathleen K. Ruddick

MAR 6, 1931 - MAR 5, 2021



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## **Kathleen K. Ruddick**

MAR 6, 1931 - MAR 5, 2021

**W**ilma “Kathleen” Kasper Ruddick March 6, 1931 - March 5, 2021

On the eve of her 90th birthday our beloved mother, Kathleen Ruddick, left her earthly home and flew with the angels to her eternal life in Heaven. A longtime resident of Seabrook, Texas, she leaves behind a legacy of love and service to her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends and relatives.

Born to Edwin N. Kasper and Myrtis Borden Kasper at their home in Houston, Kathleen was the youngest of three siblings. Her older brother, Edwin “Meo” Kasper, Jr., and older sister, Betty Jane Sieck, preceded their “Baby Sister” in death.

Kathleen attended Stephen F. Austin High School, where she was an honor student and lieutenant colonel of the Scottish Brigade drill team. After graduation, she married her high school sweetheart, Melbourne Jack Martin, Jr., and together they had 4 children. Although later divorced, Jack and Kathleen remained close and she helped him take an active, positive role in their children’s lives for which they are eternally grateful.

Kathleen developed many talents and abilities to support her young family, including floral design and secretarial skills. She worked as a secretary at Schlumberger Limited and for many years was an executive secretary for Dr. George P. Noon, a renowned cardiologist at Baylor College of Medicine.

While working at Schlumberger, Kathleen met her second husband, Charles K. Ruddick, whom she married in 1967, gaining 2 stepsons and a stepdaughter with whom she had close, loving relationships.



## Obituary

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Kathleen had many interests and especially enjoyed travelling. In her lifetime, she visited many of the world's most beautiful places with friends and family. She made friends everywhere she went.

Kathleen was a faithful member and supporter of Bluff Springs United Methodist Church in Canton, Missouri, near the second home she and Charlie purchased in his hometown, Keokuk, Iowa, in 1975. She enjoyed her home and garden in Keokuk and loved the time spent every year with her best friend, Dorothy Higbee, and the other great friends she made there.

Kathleen cared lovingly for Charlie through his seven-year struggle with Alzheimer's until his death in 1996. Some time later, she reconnected with Ben Ryland, a friend of both Charlie and Kathleen from their Schlumberger days, and he became her cherished companion. Ben and his "Kakalina" enjoyed traveling the world together until his passing in 2008. Afterwards, Kathleen continued to live independently, travelling between Texas and Keokuk, remaining close to friends and her extended family.

Kathleen faced the challenges in her life with fiery determination and a "can-do" attitude that was an inspiration to all. She was a warm, gracious, joyful and loving influence in every life she touched.

Kathleen is survived by her three sons, Stephen "Craig" Martin (Susan), Gary Leigh Martin (Bethann), Melbourne "Jack" Martin, III, (Liza), and her daughter, Marla Dean Martin Garcia (Gene), as well as 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, her stepchildren, Barbara Archer and Bob Ruddick (Gery), 4 step-grandchildren, and 4 step-great grandchildren.

Kathleen's children are grateful to Bertha Mata, Alice Morehouse and Dennis Jenkins for the care they provided to help Kathleen maintain her cherished independence in her later years. They also appreciate the tremendous help Bob Ruddick, Charlie's older son, gave with her financial affairs. Finally, they wish to thank Gene Garcia, Marla's husband, for always being there to take care of Kathleen's needs while in Seabrook. No woman ever had a finer son-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, Kathleen's children ask that you consider a donation in her honor to the Bluff Springs United Methodist Church, US-61, Canton, MO 63435 where Kathleen received spiritual nourishment for over 40 years.



## Obituary

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The funeral celebrating Kathleen's life will be held at South Park Funeral Home, 1310 North Main Street located in Pearland on Friday, March 19, 2021. Visitation will commence at 1 p.m. with the funeral service to begin at 2 p.m.

To access LIVESTREAM, please click link below:

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/50032>



# Events

**Kathleen K. Ruddick**

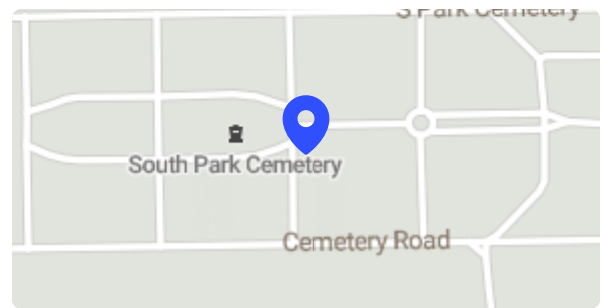
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## Visitation

**Friday**, March 19, 2021

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

**South Park Chapel**  
1310 North Main Street, Pearland TX 77581

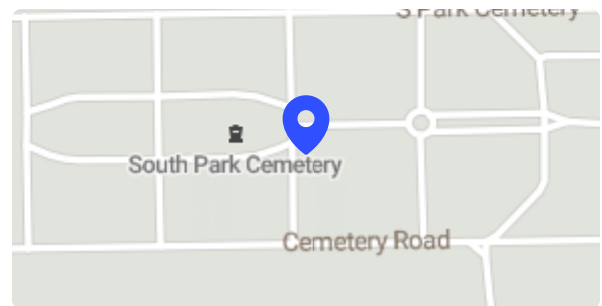


## Funeral Service

**Friday**, March 19, 2021

2:00 PM CT

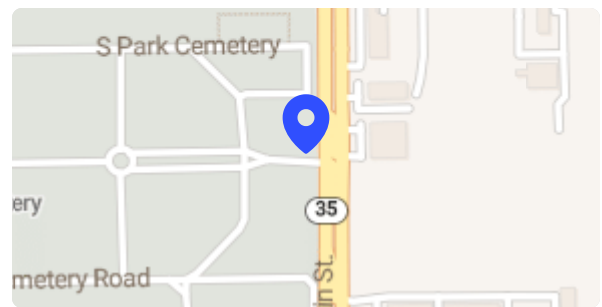
**South Park Chapel**  
1310 North Main Street, Pearland TX 77581



## Cemetery Details

**South Park Cemetery**  
1310 North Main Street, Pearland TX 77581

**(281) 509-9228**





# Tribute Wall

**Kathleen K. Ruddick**

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**Beth Br** posted:

I was so very fortunate to have Kathleen in my life as well as my family. As a matter of fact, she became part of our family. She was a loving, wonderful companion for my grandfather Ben Ryland. I am so happy that they found each other and spent many happy years together. Our lives are better for having Kathleen in it. You will be missed. Beth Brown

March 19 at 7:00 AM



**Robert Ruddick** posted:

We were telling this story about Kathleen to Kathy Auth and thought it so captured Kathleen's fun loving, adventurous spirit that we decided to share it here. Many years ago Kathleen flew down to the Cook Islands and visited us on the tiny island of Aitutaki, where we were spending four months a year. At that time Aitutaki was an undiscovered island with only a handful of tourists at any one time. The small wooden house we were living in had been hand built of coconut wood by a New Zealand man, and was lovely to look out but very rustic. Kathleen was such a good sport about the swarms of nighttime mosquitoes, and having geckos occasionally drop from the ceiling and land on her head or shoulder. There were no rental cars on the island, so we rented a beat up old car from a friend. Every time we would break too fast, or go over a bump on the dirt road, the backseat Kathleen was sitting on would fall backwards so that she was on her back with her feet wiggling in the air. It was a real testimony to her wonderful good spirit that we would all just laugh and laugh when this happened. She charmed our Cook Island friends. She happily sat on the ground and ate with her hands at a local feast, gamely gave Cook Island dancing a try when she was pulled up in front of the audience after a show, wading in deep water on a sandbar out in the lagoon, etc. We think one of our teenage friends wanted to adopt her as a mom; he loved to come over and play the ukulele for her. That was Kathleen. Adventurous, fun-loving, and loved by all. Bob and Gery Ruddick

March 18 at 6:55 PM



**Steve & Rita Martin, And Family** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Ruddick family.



March 18 at 11:50 AM



**Jeff Jordan & Cheree Kardenetz** sent a Pink Tribute Spray to the Ruddick family.



March 18 at 8:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Kathleen K. Ruddick**

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**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Ruddick family.

March 18 at 7:50 AM



**The Jarosz Family (Gary, Mary, & Sarah)** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Ruddick family.

March 18 at 7:25 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Ruddick family.

March 18 at 6:45 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Ruddick family.

March 17 at 5:35 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Ruddick family.

March 17 at 12:07 PM



**Karen Ryland Newton** posted:

I first met Kathleen when my father Ben Ryland introduced her to us at a family gathering. From that day on, Kathleen became a welcomed member of our family. Kathleen filled a lonely space in our father's life that enhanced his quality of life and enriched ours. Kathleen was one of those treasures that life unexpectedly gifts us with. Karen Ryland Newton

March 17 at 4:25 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Love, Abe, Julia, & Kate Gallagher** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Ruddick family.

March 16 at 5:51 AM



**The Higbee Family** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Ruddick family.

March 15 at 9:59 AM



**The Ruddick And Archer Families** sent a Beautiful Whisper to the Ruddick family.

March 15 at 8:57 AM



**The Ruddick And Archer Families** sent a Touching Tribute Spray to the Ruddick family.

March 15 at 8:56 AM



**The Ruddick And Archer Families** sent a Rays of Light Spray to the Ruddick family.

March 15 at 8:46 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Ruddick family.

March 14 at 3:39 PM





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Ruddick family.

March 14 at 2:10 PM



**From The Kbr Fist Team** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Ruddick family.

March 11 at 4:45 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Kathleen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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