



BETTYE KAYE EVANS

May 25, 1940 - December 14, 2020

Bettye Kaye (Yahn) Evans died on December 14, 2020. She fought a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease but never let it rob her of her glorious smile and generous heart. Even in her last days when confined to a wheelchair or bed she often said, "How can I help you?" And she meant it! Bettye Kaye and eventual husband Gary grew up living catty-corner across the street from one another in Perry, OK. Her parents were Glen and Eleanor Yahn, and Bettye Kaye was delivered by Gary's father, Dr. A.M. Evans. As the only child of two working parents, she fixed lunch for her parents every day beginning 7th grade and became an exceptional cook. She played saxophone in the Perry High School band and was elected Perry High School Wrestling Queen in 1957. An early claim to fame was winning the title of Miss Perry and getting to make several appearances with film star Buster Keaton, who lived in Perry during his younger years.

Although living catty-corner from each other, they did not actually "go out" until Gary was in Medical School and she was in college. She graduated from OSU with a degree in elementary education and was a proud member of OSU Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. After graduation she and Gary married in 1962. She taught school in Oklahoma City and Tulsa during Gary's final year of Medical School, and during his post-graduate years of internship, residency, and employment as an assistant professor of Radiology at University of Oklahoma Hospital in Oklahoma City.

After moving to Muskogee in 1969, she became a full-time mom transporting

their four children and their friends to an incredible number of events. She helped deliver Meals on Wheels in Muskogee for several years, and she was a member of Service League of Muskogee and Chapter B of P.E.O. She loved flower arranging, party planning and decorating.

She was a faithful congregant of First United Methodist Church in Muskogee and served on various committees and boards. She recognized God's handiwork in trees and flowers and put a fresh bouquet on the coffee and donut serving counter at the First United Methodist Church every Sunday morning for many years. She sang in the vocals choir and played in the handbell choir. She especially loved serving as a member of the building and grounds committee and was involved during the building of the church's Activity Center and in the acquisition, refreshing and maintenance of several parsonages.

She loved to travel, and her parents hosted the entire Evans clan on trips to Orlando, San Diego, Honolulu, Seattle, and Phoenix. She and Gary accompanied daughter Jill (as member of the NCA Pom Pom squad) to Ireland for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Governor's Ball. She and Gary went with several Perry friends on a self-styled European train trip to Rome, Lucerne, Paris, Normandy, and London; and went with several Muskogee friends on river boat cruises to Paris and Northern France, and Southern France, and to the Netherlands.

She became the primary care arranger for her elderly parents and traveled to their home in Perry at least once a week for several years to check on them and oversee their caregivers. Her giving spirit was always and only directed toward others.

She is survived by her husband, Gary; daughter, Jennifer and her husband Lake Moore IV of Muskogee; son, Jake of Muskogee; son, Grant of Edmond; daughter, Jill Blake of Stillwater; and her grandchildren, Lake Moore V of Oklahoma City, Arden Moore of Bartlesville, and John, Mia, and Joe Blake of Stillwater.

Special thanks are extended to her latest caregivers, Billie Willsey and Stacie

Sallee, to the nurses and aides of Good Shepherd Hospice, and to all of her friends; she loved you.

In deference to Covid-19, interment services will be restricted to family.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, Muskogee or First Christian Church, Perry, OK.

Cremation services provided by Cornerstone Funeral Home. Condolences may be made to the family online at <http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com>.

Tribute Wall



“ **BETTYE KAYE EVANS**

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Gary and family: My heart hurts today and I feel like there is a hole in it. There is. My beautiful friend is missing and I feel so sad. Bettye Kaye and I go back a long way. I moved to Perry in the summer before my 9th grade and we became friends right away. When it was time to go to college, we two young girls from a small town forged our way to be big university campus (OSU). We were scared to death but at least we had each other. We were both education majors so took ALL our classes together, roomed together and even pledged the same sorority. Those 4 years were such fun and I have great memories of the times we had. After that, we both married and stayed in touch via phone and letters (long before email) as our families grew and then began to move on. Now I feel such a loss but I will always remember her beautiful smile and caring compassionate ways. What an example she set for us all! We were blessed to have Bettye Kaye in our lives. And, what an example you, her family, set for us too. She loved you so and you showed her such love as you cared for her in these past years. God bless you all.*

Sondra Plachy - December 21, 2020 at 10:18 AM

KE

“ Gary and Family: Bettye Kaye and I had accounting or bookkeeping classes together and she was always a great student and uplifting to be around. She was a good conversationalist and a little mischievous. She was a classy lady and was well liked by all of her classmates. Karen and I especially enjoyed the class reunions in the Yahn family home. Bettye Kaye, Gary, and family worked very hard to make these reunions special. It has been a long time since my 4 years at PHS, but Betty Kaye will always be on my list of memorable people. May God open his gates in Heaven for such a beautiful lady!

Tommy & Karen Edgar

Karen Edgar - December 19, 2020 at 10:05 PM

 Karen
Edgar

“ Gary and Family: Through the 4 years I was in PHS, Bettye Kaye and I had some classes together and she was always a joy to be around. She was a classy personality and was reared by great parents. Karen and I always enjoyed the special class reunions Betty Kaye, Gary and Family hosted at the Yahn Family Home in Perry. The family made our classmates reunion a memorable event. God will celebrate opening his kingdom for such a beautiful Lady.

Tommy & Karen Edgar

Karen Edgar - December 19, 2020 at 08:13 PM

JE

“ Gary and Family: Heaven gained another very special angel on December 14. Jeannie and I just learned of Bettye Kaye's death and and very sorry and saddened that we haven't had the opportunity to see you more lately. You know of our love and feelings for you both. It's very difficult to lose a close friend you grew up with and live next door to her parents for 34 years. We have so many memories of her coming to Perry to take care of her parents. Bettye Kaye was a very special lady for both of us. We are a better couple having known Bettye Kaye and your family for so many years.

Jeannie and Sam Ebersole - December 19, 2020 at 11:19 AM

CF

“ When we shared with mom about Bettye Kaye's passing she said "oh she was one of the sweetest people I have ever known" and we all agreed unanimously. We had the privilege of becoming friends with Bettye Kaye through First United Methodist Church, where you could find her working tirelessly behind the scenes to accomplish any task that needed to be done but not wanting any recognition in return. She always had a smile, a word of encouragement, and was a friend to everyone she met. The Bible teaches us we do not sorrow as those who have no hope and through knowing our Savior we will be reunited. Until that day, we will cherish the memories and pray for Gary and the family. Much love from the Chambers family.

Chambers Family - December 18, 2020 at 07:58 PM

JJ

“ Grant and Family. I am so sorry to hear of hear of the loss of your mother. It seems like yesterday we were swimming in your pool having burgers and lots of fun with what seemed like the entire high school! She was a great lady I know my mother really enjoyed spending time with her back in the day LONG BEFORE we came along!!! Thoughts and prayers from Texas.

John Jeffries - December 18, 2020 at 05:58 PM

EF

“ Jennifer and family, we are so sad about the loss of our neighborhood icon, Bettye Kaye. I'll never forget the big smile she gave everyone while she was out in her wheelchair in the neighborhood if you happened to come upon them. She was an exceptional woman and we will all miss her. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Erik Fleak - December 18, 2020 at 10:15 AM

HM

Gary and family, so sorry for your loss! Bettye Kaye and I go back a long time. We met the summer before 6th grade when my family moved to Perry. She and I were in the same grade and attended Sunday school and youth activities together at the First Christian Church. I'll always remember her signature smile and friendliness to everyone. When we were about in our Sophomore year in high school, she played a joke on me at church camp. She offered me a piece of "fudge" that her mother had sent her. I didn't want to tell her that the fudge didn't taste very good. Later I learned that it was Ex-Lax. I was given special permission to leave any class at any time if necessary. Ha, ha! My mother struggled with Parkinson's several years before she died too. Not an easy thing to deal with. BK still smiled! Praying for your family.

Harriet Morgan - December 18, 2020 at 03:25 PM