



## Mary Katherine Dawson

July 24, 1952 - July 2, 2020

Mary Katherine Dawson was born July 24, 1952 to A. D. & Hazel (Rains) Dawson in Muskogee, OK. She calmly & quietly left this life on July 2, 2020 after a long and valiant fight with liver disease.

Kathy could be described in so many ways, but she is probably best recounted as loving, kind, funny, smart, generous, feisty and most of all, tough. As Shakespeare wrote, "Though she be but little, she is fierce."

Kathy grew up on the West side of Muskogee attending church at Boston Avenue, going to school at Longfellow Elementary, West Junior High and finally graduating from Central High School with the class of 1970. After graduation, she and her father, A.D., commuted to Tahlequah together while they both attended what was then Northeastern State College. Not many people get to say they went to school with their dad, but Kathy did!

In 1973, her daughter Sarah was born. This changed the focus and direction of her life dramatically. After a divorce and a break from school to work & raise Sarah, she returned to college; graduating with her Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Northeastern. While she was there, she worked for the Wildlife Department where she made many friends and tagged lots of Canadian Geese. Not one to shy away from a challenge, she and Sarah moved to Norman where she decided to attempt the LSAT. After a summer of intense study and work, she decided Law School wasn't for her. She instead pursued a Master's Degree in Ichthyology. When she was just a few hours shy of her MS degree, Kathy was offered a job as a Sanitarian with the State of

Oklahoma in Washington County. She took the position and lived and worked in Bartlesville for almost 6 years. Kathy then returned to Muskogee where she briefly worked for the City of Muskogee before resuming her work as a Sanitarian for the State of Oklahoma until her retirement.

In 2004, her grandson Kai was born. Again, her purpose and focus in life changed dramatically after falling head over heels in love with him. After she retired from the State, she planned to focus on enjoying Kai and her many hobbies. Although she had many, perhaps her most enjoyed hobby was photography. She was a very accomplished photographer and was sought out by many. She loved being behind the lens. Her favorite subject was Kai. She documented many of his "firsts" and always photographed his parties and school functions. Her health interrupted these plans, but she took advantage of every moment she could.

There is not enough time or space to describe her tenacious spirit and huge heart; nor all of the wonderful things she did in her life. There is no doubt that her most treasured roles were Mom and Granny. She touched so many lives and is sorely missed. We take comfort in knowing she is no longer in pain caused by her liver disease.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, A.D. & Hazel Rains Dawson, Grandmothers Madeline Carroll Rains & Frankie Young Dawson, Aunts Mary Emma Dawson Guiwits, Nancy Rains Payne & Carol Rains Anson, Uncles Roy V. & Karl Rains, Daniel Dawson, Raymond "Buggs" Dawson & Frank Dawson and cousins Ryan Anson, Jeff Rains & Jeff Harrison.

Kathy is survived by her daughter Sarah Callison of Muskogee, OK, grandson, Kai Murphy of Muskogee, OK, sister M'liss Jenkins and husband Carl of Ramona, OK, brother Alan "Dice" Dawson of Muskogee, OK, Uncle Chick Rains of Muskogee, OK, Nieces Amber Sikes Chase and husband Jay of Broken Arrow, OK, Ashley Sikes and partner Dennis Duncan of Bartlesville, OK, Amy Jenkins and partner Nate Grace of Austin, TX, Nephew Adam Jenkins of Ramona, OK, Great Nieces and nephews: Jacob, Coleman, Kennedy, Cooper & London Chase of Broken Arrow, OK, Kaelynn, Dennis &

Ashden Duncan of Bartlesville, OK and Guthrie & Golden Grace of Austin, TX. She also leaves behind many close cousins and a large group of beloved friends who are like family.

A memorial service celebrating Kathy's life and legacy is planned for a later date.

Cremation provided by Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 North York St, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Condolences may be made to the family online at [www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com](http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Katherine Dawson*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *I remember Kathy well. We attended Central High School together. She was from the west side and I was from the east side. Since our last names started with the letter D we always seemed to have the same home room and same class schedule. She had quite a sense of humor as I remember. My prayers to her family during this time of grieving. Losing a loved one is never easy. It takes time to heal. May God bless you and take you under his wing. Kathy will be missed.*

**sharon duzan markland** - July 09, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ *Kathy was always a kind soul. I enjoyed visiting with her and she always made me laugh. She was passionate about her views and her photos were always great and had a view of true life in them. I am so happy I have known her and will see her again at the golden gate.*

**Susan Vaught** - July 09, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ *We lost a truly kind-hearted woman. You will be missed my friend.*

**Max Boydston** - July 08, 2020 at 07:53 AM

MC

“ I am so sorry to hear this. Kathy and I shared many a conversation. My sympathy goes out to her family and all who loved her.  
Melony Carey

Melony Carey - July 07, 2020 at 05:35 PM

MB

“ Mitzie Abel Burk lit a candle in memory of Mary Katherine Dawson



mitzie Abel Burk - July 07, 2020 at 12:54 AM

SB

“ My dearest childhood friend, keeper of porch swing secrets, so many memories. Slurping soup and laughing til we wet our pants. Spending weekends at the creek, including the one when my parents' car burned up. Walking all over the neighborhood with the other girls. Our first boyfriends. Our first car accident. Drinking the first time. Learning to smoke cigarettes. Going to Lake Tenkiller. Our first job at the new Twin Cinemas. People getting us mixed up even though we didn't look alike, I guess because we were together so much. Our weddings. Spending Christmas Eves together at A.D. and Hazel's when our kids were little. We never had even one argument. Although we drifted apart over time and miles, we instantly reconnected whenever life would allow. I will always treasure Kathy's unwavering unconditional friendship. Until we meet again, Dear Heart.

Sue Blakeman - July 06, 2020 at 09:55 PM

BC

Beautifully remembered Suzy!

Becki Cato - July 07, 2020 at 11:42 AM

RC

*Long time friend from church at Boston Avenue to lunches and breakfast and Photograph buddies!*

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**Roy Campbell** - July 12, 2020 at 01:27 AM

LC

“*Kathy was an inspiration. I only knew her a short time before she became sick. I was firmly on Team Kathy, her tenacious attitude was Infectious. It is with much sadness that I write this but am so grateful to have had her in my life, I am blessed to have known her.*”

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**Lewis Carabajal** - July 06, 2020 at 06:19 PM