



## Mary Sue Pace Placke

January 26, 1935 - April 18, 2022

Funeral services for Sue Placke, 87 of Giddings, are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings with Rev. Robert Tiner officiating. Burial will follow in the Giddings City Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 22, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for visitation Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Mary Sue Pace Placke (named after her paternal grandmother, Mary Susan Boyle) was born on January 26, 1935, in Lubbock, Texas, to Jerry and Beulah (Baggett) Pace. She was baptized in the Ozona Methodist Church in January 1937. Her brother Baggett was born one year later. She grew up in old Austin, living in the home her parents built in 1937 which is now known as the Pace-Perry house in Pemberton Heights. She attended Pease Elementary, University Junior High, and was a member of the Red Jackets before graduating in 1953 as a “loyal forever” Austin High Maroon. She attended many class reunions including the most recent in 2018, her 65th. Both of her parents had family in west Texas and so there were frequent trips to Winters and Ozona to spend time with family and friends on the ranch.

Sue stayed in Austin to attend college and obtained a B.A. in textiles and a minor in math from the University of Texas. After graduation in 1957, Sue began a varied professional career which included two jaunts in the late 1950's away from the Austin area. She followed two Delta Gamma sorority sisters, one to Bay City where she taught 7th grade math and then to Minneapolis where she worked in the hosiery department at Dayton's Department Store. Upon her return to Texas, she found her calling as a social worker. During the 1960's she was Volunteer Coordinator at Austin State School, which housed females with developmental disabilities. This is where she met Jack, who was working at Travis State School for males in Austin. John L. “Jack” Placke and Sue married in her parents' backyard on June 7, 1963. With two young children, the family moved to Jack's hometown of Giddings where Jack began his career in law. Sue was hired by the State to evaluate and license daycare facilities in the Central Texas area until 1981 when she

retired.

Miss Sue, as she was known by many of her family and friends, was a dedicated and engaged community volunteer, particularly in the area of literacy. All of her volunteer work was impactful and longstanding. She soon recognized the need for a library at her children's school, Immanuel Lutheran School. Mrs. Falke, the school's English teacher, had a meager school library in a box under her desk. After petitioning the school's Board of Education, Sue facilitated the expansion of the library so that it eventually filled a room in the church fellowship hall. She piggybacked her love for literacy with service as a dedicated member of the City of Giddings' Library Board for over 36 years. She worked with community members and the city council to obtain funding to double the size of the Rufus Young King library. Once this library was outgrown, she again helped to locate and design the new Giddings Public Library, which now houses a computer lab, a community room, and permanent local interest exhibits. She was also an integral influence in the development of the community's Word Wrangler event which annually showcases Texas authors.

She was invited to be a member of the Giddings Study Club, a Texas Federation of Women's organization. She held many leadership roles in this organization at both the local and state level and made 50+ year life-long friends in her new-found hometown.

Though she grew up Methodist, Sue was confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran church in 1971 where she was a faithful member, serving in both the Caring and Braille ministries. She also enjoyed spending at least one day a month with other church ladies from the community at Rejuvenation, a local non-profit thrift store. Sometimes she would even find a jewel of a bargain she couldn't resist buying and bringing home.

Miss Sue was a life-long learner who explored family history through genealogy, supported the arts, and appreciated nice things. She held membership in both Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and was a charter member of the Lee County Historical Commission. She frequently attended musicals, plays, and concerts and invited family along whenever possible. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, especially holidays when she could set a beautiful table with delicious food and flowers. She and Jack shared a love of all things Texas Longhorns. Hook 'Em!!! And, no line at Starbucks was too long for Miss Sue!

Both intellectual and creative, Miss Sue was a voracious reader of both fiction and non-fiction. She always had large stacks of books and periodicals to read, crossword and jigsaw puzzles to work, and new recipes to prepare and share. Caregivers in her home all

have stories of their having to “make” something in the kitchen for Miss Sue. She was always a teacher! Her family members were frequent, grateful recipients of her handwork, whether created on her large loom or with her crochet, knitting, needlepoint, or sewing needles. Miss Sue loved to play bridge, which she did weekly for over two decades at local establishments including Circle W, The Bullpen, and Santa Fe Steakhouse, even recently joining a second group. In the days shortly before her passing, Sue was still working on her puzzles, searching for a new book to read, and inquiring about the lives of her loved ones with interest and concern.

Sue and Jack had a love for travel and history and made numerous trips to Europe and also to Japan and Russia. Two days before she passed, Miss Sue was asked if there was a favorite location she had traveled to and without hesitation she said: Ireland.

Miss Sue passed away in the early morning hours of April 18, 2022, at her home in Giddings. Sue was preceded in death by her parents Jerry and Beulah Pace of Hutto, parents-in-law Fred Oscar and Bertha (Lehmann) Placke of Giddings, and brother-in-law Fred O Placke of Giddings.

Sue is survived by her husband of 58 years, Jack Placke, daughter Jennifer and Charles Gault of Seabrook, son Martin and Jennifer Varnado Placke of Giddings, and daughter Abigail Placke of Weatherford as well as granddaughters Anna Placke Holland and husband Anthony Holland of Georgetown, and Laura Kate Placke and husband Jordan Dedear of Georgetown and her brother “JB” Baggett Pace of Georgetown. She is also survived by numerous in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Charlene Mutschink and Brittany Behrens and all of the staff at A Perfect Way who have made it possible for Miss Sue and Jack to be cared for on a daily basis while at home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Giddings Public Library, the Immanuel Lutheran School library, the Immanuel Lutheran Church Ring the Bell Campaign, or to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings.

# Cemetery

# Events

**Giddings City Cemetery (Section F)**

900 West Austin Street  
Giddings, TX, 78942

**APR 22 Visitation** 07:00AM - 08:00PM

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Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street, Giddings, TX, US,  
78942

**APR 22 Family Present for Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street, Giddings, TX, US,  
78942

**APR 23 Visitation** 07:00AM - 08:00AM

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Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street, Giddings, TX, US,  
78942

**APR 23 Funeral Service** 10:00AM

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Immanuel Lutheran Church  
300 North Grimes Street, Giddings, TX, US,  
78942

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - April 21 at 04:12 PM

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“ She did so much to preserve Lee County history. Sue was a community leader and a good friend. Our condolences to her family.

James and Cheryl Walker.

**James Walker** - May 03 at 04:16 AM

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“ Travis Lynn Gunter lit a candle in memory of Mary Sue Pace Placke



**Travis Lynn Gunter** - April 22 at 03:43 PM

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“ Big Love, Michele and Jim Audet purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Sue Pace Placke.



**Big Love, Michele and Jim Audet** - April 22 at 10:51 AM

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“ Mary Ann and Sam Varela purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mary Sue Pace Placke.



Mary Ann and Sam Varela - April 22 at 09:45 AM

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“ Sincere condolences and prayers to the Placke family and friends !!

Venica Riggins - April 22 at 08:55 AM

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“ Sue Placke was a prominent townswoman and outstanding leader in countless civic and public organizations. As a loving mother and loyal family member she always found the time to devote her immense intellect and talent toward the progress and betterment of the citizens of Lee County and her local community. She will be sorely missed by all. May she rest in eternal peace.

Carey & Ruthie Boethel

Carey Boethel - April 22 at 12:44 AM

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“ 74 files added to the album LifeTributes



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - April 21 at 04:04 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort.  
David, Carol and Christopher Schulz



David Alfred Schulz - April 21 at 11:06 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Sue Pace Placke.



April 21 at 07:31 AM

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“ Violet Frosch lit a candle in memory of Mary Sue Pace Placke



Violet Frosch - April 19 at 08:48 PM

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“ My family and the Placke family intertwined over many decades and Sue was just the last of her female generation to be a leader of her church and community. Mother really relied upon her constant assistance to Lee County Historical Society.

My condolences to her family for their loss. May she Rest In Peace with the Lord.

John Pieratt

John Pieratt - April 19 at 04:00 PM

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“ Oh Jennifer, I just saw your mom passed too. My deepest heart felt sympathy to you. Our lives are indeed changing. God's peace to you all.

Cynthia Boriack - April 19 at 11:44 AM

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“ Patsy Steglich lit a candle in memory of Mary Sue Pace Placke



Patsy Steglich - April 19 at 08:11 AM

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“ Cheryl Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mary Sue Pace Placke



Cheryl Sanders - April 18 at 05:10 PM