



Martha Geneva Irby

February 12, 1942 - July 23, 2023

Martha Geneva Irby, 81, died Sunday, July 23, 2023, from a heat stroke in Tanglewood, Texas. Geneva was born February 12, 1942, in Houston, Texas. Geneva graduated from Taylor High School in 1960, and continued her education at the University of Houston where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She was an avid tennis and bridge player and loved playing any and all games with her family and friends. She was a passionate physical education teacher in the Houston Alief area for many years. After her retirement, she moved to Rockdale and coached many young tennis players and was a substitute teacher.

She is survived by her husband Douglas Irby of Tanglewood, Texas. Surviving sisters are Ann Lee Brueckner of Taylor, Texas and Bonnie Elliott and her husband John Elliot of Athens, Tennessee.

She was preceded in death by her parents Howard and Geneva Smith, her sister Avva Dee Griffith, her brothers Archi "Buster" Smith and Jack Smith. She and Doug had two children, a son Rex Irby of Elmhurst, Illinois, daughter-in-law Jennifer Irby, grandchildren Matthew Irby of Austin, Taylor Irby and his wife Harmony in Florence, Arizona, Lauren, Christopher, and Alyssa Irby in Elmhurst, Illinois; and a daughter Vicki Thweatt of Austin, son-in-law Rock Thweatt and her grandchildren Steven Thweatt of Austin and Rachel Thweatt of San Antonio.

Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, July 29, 2023 3:00pm at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale Texas on Highway 79 West

Pastor Greg Nichols officiating.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **29**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale

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Rockdale, TX 76567

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Tribute Wall

TE

“ Geneva was such a dear friend to our entire family, especially when we were all living in Rockdale, attending First Christian Church together with her and Doug. She was so engaged with our children's tennis development. She definitely played a role in establishing tennis as a lifetime sport for both Laura and Jeff!, and shared the love for the sport with Laura and Jeff's grandmother, Leta Easterwood, introducing her to Geneva's sister, Ann, to play doubles. May God rest and bless her soul, and comfort Doug and the family in their time of grief.

Terry Easterwood - August 01, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Geneva Irby.

July 28, 2023 at 04:16 PM

TS

“ Aunt Geneva will be be greatly missed our hearts are broken.



Tim and Lesa Smith - July 27, 2023 at 01:13 PM

LI

“ Linda lit a candle in memory of Martha Irby



Linda - July 26, 2023 at 07:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Martha Geneva Irby.



July 26, 2023 at 03:06 PM

MO

“ Mark O. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha Geneva Irby.

Mark O. - July 26, 2023 at 08:29 AM

PW

“ Geneva was a very dear friend to me when we were living in Houston. One of my fondest memories is when we started a summer baseball league for the kids. It was a huge success as kids started showing up from several neighborhoods! We also enjoyed bowling together and were even on a bowling team called the Hot Shots. We raised our children together and leaned on each other for support. The many memorable moments we spent together were full of laughter! Geneva will be dearly missed and my thoughts are with the family. Alice Sims

Peggy D. Waller - July 26, 2023 at 02:33 AM

CS

“ PS My maiden name was Charla Kaye Moore in regard to my previous post for Charla Kaye Sisk.

Charla Kaye Sisk - July 25, 2023 at 06:15 PM

CS

“ Mrs, Irby was my elementary PE teacher back in 1974-1975. She taught with my now, stepdad, Mr. Bill Bownds. Back then, Mr. Bownds would be extra tough on me to show he wasn't being partial to me, because he was dating my mom. Mrs. Irby would always step up for me and say, "Oh, I don't think it's that bad." I never forgot she did this for me after all these years. She was kind. Kids remember when a teacher is kind to them. Rest in peace, Mrs. Irby. You were a sweet teacher. Much love to your family in this difficult time. Thank you for being wonderful. And thanks for helping me and Mrs. Bradford and Mrs. Herzog play tricks on Mr. Bownds. The best one was when they got me to go tape a poster of the score of an Aggie game they lost on the passenger's side of the door to his burnt orange car (why an Aggie had a burnt orange car, I will never know.). Mr. Bownds drove all over town not knowing the poster celebrating the opposite team was on his car! We still laugh about it to this day! 🌸

Charla Kaye Sisk - July 25, 2023 at 06:13 PM

K(

“ Karen (. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha Geneva Irby.

Karen (. - July 25, 2023 at 05:29 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Martha Geneva Irby.*



July 25, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Geneva Irby.

July 25, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Martha Geneva Irby.*



July 25, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Geneva Irby.

July 25, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Martha Geneva Irby.*



July 25, 2023 at 12:35 PM

PW

“ When I was young I spent a great deal of time in the Irby household. Geneva (but I always called her Mrs. Irby!) was like a second mother to me. I think Vicki and I pretty much split our time 50/50 between our two households! I remember Geneva as so loving, warm and funny. She always made me feel welcome. My love goes out to her family and friends who I know will miss her dearly. I will remember Geneva fondly till we meet again. Peggy (Sims) Waller

Peggy D. Waller - July 24, 2023 at 10:04 PM

SW

“ Stan and Peggy (Sims) Waller purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Martha Geneva Irby.



Stan and Peggy (Sims) Waller - July 24, 2023 at 09:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Martha Geneva Irby.



July 24, 2023 at 08:20 PM

ST

“ I met Geneva many years ago when she subbed at Rockdale Elementary. She was fun and funny and I'm sure a very good sub. I enjoyed knowing her. I know your family will miss her. My prayers and sympathy are with you. Samye Reat Turner

Samye Turner - July 24, 2023 at 07:36 PM

DS

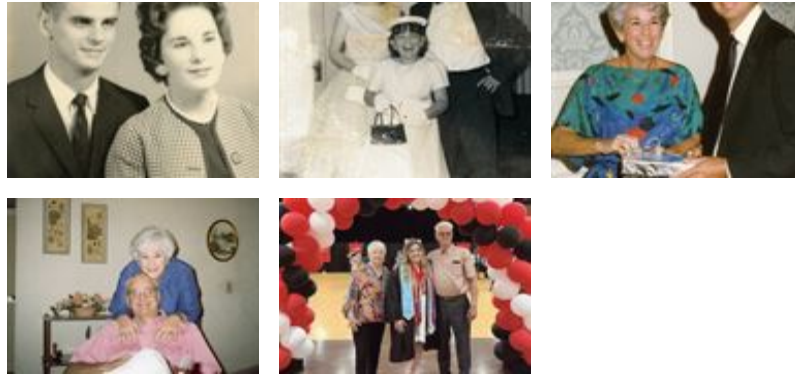
“ Geneva was such a beautiful, sweet lady. My condolences and prayers for peace to Doug and her family. 🙏🙏



Dawn Stefek - July 24, 2023 at 05:47 PM



“ 55 files added to the album LifeTributes



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - July 24, 2023 at 05:13 PM

KG

I'm sorry to hear about Aunt Geneva. Thinking of you all. She will be up there with my mom having a blast.

Kristi Griffith - July 24, 2023 at 06:24 PM

KM

God bless you Doug and all the family. It's been so great seeing Geneva at our class reunion luncheons lately. Will really miss her.
Karen Rydell Marosko

Karen Rydell Marosko - July 29, 2023 at 07:21 PM