



## Cynthia Kay Burdeshaw

July 3, 1947 - January 20, 2025

On Monday, January 20, 2025, Cynthia Kay Burdeshaw stepped off this Mortal Coil. She left with peace and grace, departing exactly the way she had planned. The planet dimmed that day, but the small indelible mark she has left, reverberates through those that knew her.

Cynthia was born to Bobbie J. Dodson and Almon Owens in Jonesboro Arkansas on July 3, 1947.

Her early life was full of tumult and poverty, but she soldiered through it. She would spend her summers picking cotton to make money for school clothes and she would dote on her younger brothers, Gary, Ronnie and Michael (then later, Jack). Many folks then and now, simply knew her as Kay.

In the 1960's she moved to Evansville, Indiana where she would meet the Father of her two children, George Smith. She and George would marry and move to Bloomington, Indiana where George wrote for the Herald Telephone. In Bloomington she would give birth to Son Kevin (Burdeshaw) and then Daughter Dawn (Starkey) three years later.

In 1970 George died suddenly and Kay was left raising two young children. Months later, she would meet the love of her life, Dan Burdeshaw. They married in 1971, and Dan would later adopt her two children and raise them

as his own. Their adoration for one another was unwavering.

Dan and Cynthia would live, love and adventure through life together for the next 30 years. They owned antique stores, furniture refinishing companies and even a pizza shop with their son for a short while. Their adventures took them here and there across America and they spent every second together. Through thick and thin, the ups and downs, their dedication to each other was unwavering. They were separated by Dan's death in 2000, and Cynthia carried on, she was somewhat diminished but managed to be resiliently positive after a time. Dan remained the love of her life until her passing.

Cynthia was preceded in death by brothers, Gary, Ron and Jack. Her Mother and Father, 2 husbands and numerous friends and family members. She is survived by her son Kevin, his wife Sonia, their children (her grandchildren) Lilith and Logan. Her daughter Dawn Starkey, her husband Dylan and their children (her grandchildren) Danielle and Devan. She also leaves behind one brother Michael Owens, and more nieces, nephews, grandnieces/nephews and cousins than can possibly be listed (she loved you all).

Kay was a master gardener, amateur golfer, an educated antiques enthusiast and tireless spirit. She loved friends and family with a ferocity that was hard to match. She kept dogs as companions throughout her life and had a preternatural connection to these canine friends, often referring to them as her "boys" – naturally, she would like her friends and family to donate to their local shelter in her name (money, toys, food or blankets), instead of grieving her loss. Please turn her absence into something positive (donate to cancer research as well) ... anything that helps those less fortunate. And please, do it in her name.

One of Kay's most outstanding and compelling attributes was her ability to make friends. Everywhere she went, whether the waiter at the restaurant, the

teller at the bank, the nurse taking her blood pressure or a person standing in line at the grocery store, they were each and every one, considered a person worth knowing. She had a transcendental ability to make someone's acquaintance in the most natural, affable and genuine way. This was Cynthia's legacy, to be kind and draw kindness from all she met. To just be friends with everyone she could. She inhabited "affable" so effortlessly.

"I just like people," She would say with a smile. "I try to be kind to everyone." So, if you can take one thing from a life well lived, take this: In an age where cruelty and conflict seem to be fashionable... dare to be different. Like Kay.

Be kind and make friends with people you might have nothing in common with. Reach out to the person different than you. Introduce yourself and shake hands. No matter how different they may be, you'll find that our Humanness towards one another dissolves animosity and distrust so effortlessly. The courage to build friendships with those who look, talk, think, worship or love differently than you can make a phenomenal difference in their life. In turn, your life will blossom with a fulfilled sense of awe at how a small act of kindness and compassion can enrich you in ways that you never thought possible.

Go ahead...do it.

Make friends fearlessly.

Do it for Kay

# Tribute Wall

KB

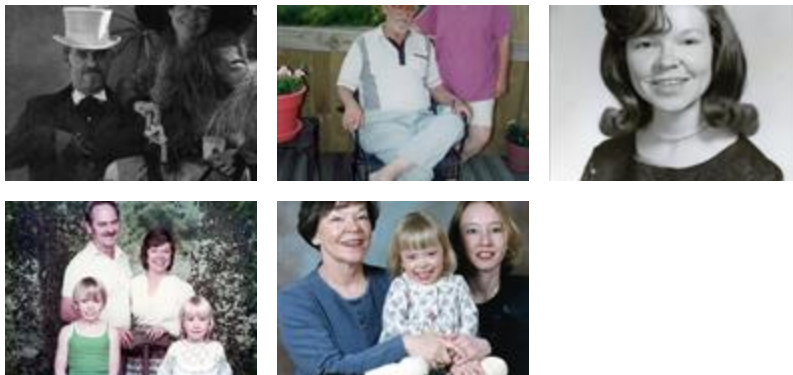
“ 3 files added to the album Cynthia Burdeshaw



Kevin L Burdeshaw - January 29, 2025 at 09:12 PM

KB

“ 11 files added to the album Cynthia Burdeshaw



Kevin L Burdeshaw - January 22, 2025 at 10:32 PM

RG

“ Kay was the first person Tom and I met when we moved to Greenridge. She was helpful, kind, informative and most of all fun. We very quickly became very good friends, I will miss her forever.

Ruth Gibson - January 22, 2025 at 10:04 AM

JR

“ Kay and Dan were our neighbors for many years when we moved next to them in 1988. Both were so kind to us and our two kids. Kay had such a distinctive laugh. At one point Kay and Dan adopted our Springer Spaniel named Spot. Spot had an affinity for going over to Dan's garage workshop to hang out all day. Kay will be fondly remembered by us and our children.

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**Jimmy Ratcliff** - January 22, 2025 at 05:09 AM

JC

“ I met Mrs Burdeshaw while she owned Rockit's Pizza. I only saw her at the end of many emptied glasses next door at the Bluebird so naturally I was in a good mood. I recall being struck how I never saw anyone get out of line with her. She was always happy to see you be it early or late. She was your mom, your aunt, your grandma, friend depending on your particular vision. I did not know her well but she made an awfully strong impression on me. I am sad to hear of her passing.

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**John Cook** - January 21, 2025 at 09:08 PM

TH

Mrs. Burdeshaw was always so kind to me. I have never forgotten her kindness, although I haven't seen her in over 30 years. My deepest condolences to Kevin, Dawn, and the rest of the family.

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**Terry High** - January 22, 2025 at 12:48 PM

LM

“ Kay was the first person to welcome my husband and I to the neighborhood when we moved to Eagle Pointe. Her kindness and positivity was ever present. She was tirelessly committed to her community and it was always a joy to talk with her or work alongside her. Kay will always have a special place in my heart.

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**Laura McCracken** - January 20, 2025 at 07:37 PM

RG

*Kay was the first person Tom and I met when we moved to Greenridge. As Laura said she was kind, welcoming, informative, but most of all fun. I will always think of her with a smile on my face. The world is a sadder place without her. And Kevin, you did a fabulous job writing her memorial. Kay was a special and unique person that I am glad I met. I will miss her forever.*

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**Ruth Gibson** - January 21, 2025 at 06:42 PM

CP

*Kevin, I know how much you loved your mother; you two were like "best buds". I know this will be a hard time but I also know you have some wonderful memories of your time with her. One day at a time my friend.*

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**Connie Pepler** - January 24, 2025 at 09:46 AM

AT

*Dear Kevin and Dawn,  
Kay and Dan and you guys were our next door neighbors in Sherwood Oaks, and welcomed us to Bgtn from Ohio, making the transition easier for us--the first Black family on the block! Kay was always helpful and friendly. Dan refinished a cherished double dresser that we still own. We reconnected briefly at the Y, where we both attended regularly. I looked forward to her greeting "Hi , AUBREY." I am sure I corrected her once or twice that my name is "Audrey." She liked AUBREY better, so I always knew it was her calling out to me.*

*A truly good neighbor, and even better person!  
R.I P, dear Kay.*

*Audrey McCluskey*

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**Audrey TM** - January 27, 2025 at 09:51 PM