



Margaret Nell Cates

February 25, 1933 - April 12, 2012

Margaret Nell Cates died peacefully on April 12, 2012 at Methodist Charlton Hospital, at the age of 79, surrounded by her children. She was born in Shady Point, Oklahoma on February 25, 1933 to Hansford Manual Janes and Lula Irene Janes. Mrs. Cates is a former resident of Dallas and Manchaca.

Margaret graduated high school in 1951, and married Durward Hampton Cates on October 17, 1952. Over the next several years, she bore 6 children, losing an 11 month old daughter in a car crash that almost took her own life.

With no college degree of her own, she took great pride in her children's degrees and accomplishments. She was named an honorary alumnus of Baylor University, and proudly became a Texan by Choice. She worked as an Internal Revenue Service department manager for several years, but she was most proud of her calling and accomplishments as wife and mother.

Her favorite pastimes were her children, her grandchildren, and in the last year, her two great granddaughters. She also loved to read and to sing, and she was most recently an active member of Manchaca Baptist Church and Eastridge Baptist Church. She loved Jesus Christ and worshipped Him every day and in every aspect of her life.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Durward (2010), and daughter, Jetta Kay (1958). She is survived by her brother Joe Janes of Golden, sons, Durward, Jr. "Drifty" and wife Karen of Kountze, Thomas Bradley and wife Linda, of Woodway. and Samuel Reid and wife Melissa of Woodway, and her daughters, Bettejim and Jo Nell, both of Lancaster. She is also survived by

seven grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren: Angie Cates Boone, husband Cameron and their daughter Annabelle Susan, Alaina Cates Torrey, husband Joshua and their daughter Kenzie Abigail, Allyson Cates, Durward Cates III, Eric Cates, Lily Cates, and Ella Reid Cates. She also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and in-laws. Memorial contributions may be made to Buckner International.

Tribute Wall



“ You could say that mom was the more aggressive of my parents. When dad sought to resolve conflicts with diplomacy, she was often ready to tongue-lash the offender. She also believed that Dad was the spiritual head of the family, and would restrain herself in almost every such instance to support Dad’s methods, whether she agreed or not. Mom taught me respect and self-control.

As a smart-mouthed teenager, I occasionally made fun of mom, as I did once in front of a number of her church friends, when I jokingly, but unkindly, called her a “dog” as I walked through the room. Without hesitation, she responded, “Well, if I am a dog, you know what that makes you!” I was stunned, (so are you, admit it!) Mom had a quick wit and a true sense of humor.

Once Drifty and I rear-ended another car after school. The police officer on the scene was really nasty to Drifty when he declined to accept my brother’s explanation that the brakes had not responded when he tried to stop. Mom was called, and she showed up to see the officer insulting and berating Drifty. She heard him say that Dad’s replacement work on the brakes was clearly faulty and should have been done by someone who knew what he was doing. Then the officer heard an earful from mom, who was not going to tolerate that kind of verbal assault on her husband’s abilities. She taught me loyalty.

I learned about harmony from Mom. Musical harmony, because she insisted we read the parts and sing harmony during choral worship in church, and she was constantly arranging for the Durward Cates Family Singers, (which included every member of the family except Durward) to sing at churches and other opportunities along our way. Family harmony, because she juggled all our needs and personalities, held us together as a family, and kept us from killing each other.

Mom was creative. When we “talked back,” our parents used a warning system, which only required the ability to count to three –

Mom perfected it. If a transgression resulted in hearing, "That's 1," from Mom or Dad, then we knew we had only one more free comment, within limits, to make our case. When we heard, "That's 2," even the most stubborn of us knew to stop talking, for "That's 3!" never brought a desirable outcome. One day I spoke a little too harshly to my mother, fully expecting to hear "That's 1" and prepared to make use of my last opportunity which the warning, by its nature, invited. Instead, Mom's first words were, "That's 2!" Stunned, I asked, "What happened to 1?" Mom replied, "That's 3."

Mom fooled me into thinking my middle name was "Hush," it followed "Bradley" so often; and she called me Bradley, not Brad, including the last time I saw her.

Mom was the best example of forgiveness and grace I have known. She did not get to see my children as often as she would have liked as they were growing up. Nevertheless, she never became angry or bitter, nor did she express her feelings about this to my children – she just loved on them every chance she got as hard as she could.

Mom was the best referee in the world, mediating, sometimes arbitrating, disputes between me and Drifty, between any of her children, and – did I say? - between Drifty and me. She put judges to shame with her understanding and certainty.

Mom spent this Easter with us, and was happy, poised and beautiful. As she left to go home, I remember thinking how mom loves unconditionally, forgives the greatest sin, and sacrifices herself and her personal needs for the needs of others. Maybe we can't be just like Jesus in this life but, if you want to be as close to that goal as has ever been accomplished, then be like Margaret Cates, my Mom.##imported-begin##Brad Cates##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ When I think about Maggie:

I remember the beautiful girl with long raven-black hair Durward brought into our family.

There are visions I still have of the calm mother with the growing and busy family.

I can't forget the pain and courage that she felt and showed after the accident that took Jetta.

I won't forget the mornings I saw her put Durward's socks on him and shave him in bed.

Oh, and there was that test drive I took, while trying to get my license, with Maggie along. Brad was born the next morning.

I remember the meals she made over the years, always prepared with bustle, muscle, and love.

There was the time we visited in Salt Lake and she took in another house full of kids while we played on the ski mountains.

I remember her beautiful singing voice, a talent she never mentioned, but was always there.

I remember how she dealt with Durward's death with such grace and strength, the grief simmering below the surface.

I remember her in the Sunday School classes, making coffee, being the hostess, sitting in the background, smiling at her husband the teacher.

There were visits she and her family made to New Mexico, then Tennessee, always full of good will, excitement, helpfulness, with her as the prime source.

I remember that Linda often said, "Maggie is the purest soul in the family."

There is so much more; this is only a taste of the multiple flavors she has brought to our lives.

Oh, how we will miss her presence, her love, her warmth. How she has blessed us all.

from her little brother, Mike##imported-begin##Brad Cates##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *May the Lord comfort you during this difficult time. My prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Diana Marquez##imported-end##*

April 17, 2012 at 08:34 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. She was a very sweet, special lady and will be sadly missed. May God give you strength and comfort in your time of mourning. I will keep you all in my prayers.*

-- Steve Southerland##imported-begin##Steve Southerland##imported-end##

April 17, 2012 at 08:14 PM



“ *Brad, Linda and all of "Mama" Cates Family- We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
God bless you,
The Family of Calvin & Mildred Adams (CABC):
Donna Zemanek
Janet Slaughter##imported-begin##Donna Zemanek##imported-end##*

April 16, 2012 at 10:55 AM



“ We want to express our sympathy for the loss of your loved one.##imported-begin##Derwood and Ann Johnson##imported-end##

April 16, 2012 at 10:14 AM



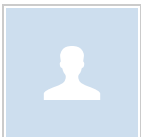
“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. All our love, the Browns##imported-begin##Robert, Tracey, Aaron & Reagan Brown##imported-end##

April 15, 2012 at 04:40 PM



“ Brad and Linda, I never had the pleasure of meeting your mother. May Gods comfort be with you as you remember his faithfulness in your mothers life. May your memories be sweet and may they bring you great peace and joy.Our prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Lanny Nye##imported-end##

April 15, 2012 at 08:56 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Please know you and your family are in our hearts and prayers! We love you!

The Karr Family##imported-begin##Melanie & Ken Karr##imported-end##

April 14, 2012 at 01:39 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Aunt Maggie leaves a wonderful legacy in your lives.##imported-begin##Chuck & Natalie Crowson##imported-end##*

April 13, 2012 at 04:29 PM