



# Joan Kathey

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Joan Kathey**

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012

**G**loria Joan Kathey returned to the arms of her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ on April 3, her birthday. Joan loved the Lord dearly and sought to grow in His word and grace to overcome the personal trials and flaws that plague us all. She openly shared her faith with many through direct testimony, encouragement, and prayer - but also through simple acts of care and concern, demonstrating God's love in motion. In 55 years of teaching dance, Joan touched thousands of young lives. Though a demanding teacher, she helped young people see potential in themselves they may have otherwise missed, spurring them to utilize gifts and talents God had given to them and building self-confidence through dance. Her push for excellence demonstrated a personal care and concern that often translated as love and generated love in return. She loved and mothered her four sons to the end of her days, never ceasing to pray for, encourage, and help them. She was wife and best friend to her husband of 59 years, sharing joys and sorrows together in times of plenty and times of want. Even in her waning days, she took actions to make her passing easier on her husband and family.

Joan was often candid, but seasoned her candor with humor. She loved to laugh and often confronted adversity with laughter. Sometimes pain can seem absurd, and Joan loved to laugh at the absurdities in life. Such laughter often broke the ice to sooth a hurting heart and open the door for a discussion about the power of God to heal the many wounds the world hurls at us.

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1934 to Clarence Donovan and Rella Mae Erickson, Joan grew up in Shreveport and began studying dance as a young child. She met her future husband Kamal Kathey at Cresswell Elementary School. They were sweethearts at Byrd High School and were married in the Navy Chapel at the Washington Navy Yard in October 1953. Their first son, Kevin, was born a year later, and their sons Shawn, Scott, and Brett followed over the next 14 years. Joan worked for Paramount Pictures in Washington DC and later worked as secretary to the



## Obituary

**Joan Kathey**

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012

---

head coach at Northwestern State University from 1957 to 1961. In 1963, she began teaching dance with Marilyn Stevens in Leesville and continued to celebrate the art of dance in Vernon Parish through the Joan Kathey Dance Center until her death, always striving to impart the beauty she experienced through ballet, tap, and jazz to those around her.

Joan is survived by her husband, four sons, and seven grandchildren.

A wake and viewing will be held at Family Worship Center, 601 East Mechanic Street, Leesville, Louisiana 6-8 PM on Thursday, April 5 and on Friday, April 6, from 12 PM until service time at the church. Funeral services will be held at Family Worship Center, beginning at 2 PM on Friday, April 6, under the direction of Labby Memorial Funeral Home of Leesville.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Hope for Mariah (at Barksdale Federal Credit Union) or St. Jude Children's Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)).



## Tribute Wall

**Joan Kathey**

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012

BT

**Bill & Sally Tilley** posted:

Kamal & Family,\r\n\r\nWe are praying for you during this time of great sorrow over the death of Joan but our comfort as Christians is knowing that \"to die is to be with Christ\". May God sustain each of you today, tomorrow, and all the days thereafter. We love you. \r\n\r\nBill & Sally Tilley

June 2 at 5:56 AM

KT

**Keely Cabra Thorne** posted:

To the Kathey Family, \r\n\r\nWords cannot express my condolences for the loss of Mrs. Joan. She was such a big influence in my life and the lives of many that I know. I will forever be grateful to have known her and know that I would not be the person I am today with her guidance, tough love and encouragement. My thoughts and prayers are with you. \r\n\r\nKeely Cabra Thorne

June 2 at 5:56 AM

RS

**Rochelle Stewart** posted:

There are no words to describe the love I have for Mrs. Kathey! She is part of the reason I am the woman I have become today. She called me her \"Copper Colored Girl\"..I carry that name with such honor. She made me believe in myself. Mrs.Kathey looked me in my eyes and told me your color is not an hinderence..NOW DANCE CIRCLES AROUND THOSE WHITE GIRLS IN THAT CLASS!! And Lord knows from that day on I never looked back! Mrs.Kathey loved the Lord and constantly reminded us who we were dancing for. I tell you that woman meant the world to me. When my father was ill and died, she was right there. Oh how she loved him so. She loved my family. She was love! I have so many fond memories but I am limited to 250 words. I LOVE YOU Mrs. Kathey! Your Copper Colored Girl

June 2 at 5:56 AM

JW

**Jonathan Brett Williams** posted:

Thinking of you Brett and praying for you and your family. I remember your\r\n\r\nMom, very well and your entire family, lots of good memories growing \r\n\r\nup while going to school in Leesville. God Bless you and your family. Jonathan Williams and Family

June 2 at 5:56 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Joan Kathey**

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012

EC

**Edwin L. Cabra** posted:

MY deepest sympathy to Kamal and Joan's entire family. Her influence on my daughters will always be sincerely appreciated. She had a very positive effect on many young lives. Sincerely, Edwin L. Cabra

June 2 at 5:56 AM

KB

**Karen Coulter Ball** posted:

Shawn,\r\nI want to tell you that I am so very saddened for you. My prayers of comfort and peace are being said for you and your family. Gods blessings to you. \r\nSincerely,\r\nKaren Coulter Ball

June 2 at 5:56 AM

RK

**Rick Kuykendall** posted:

My condolences to the Kathey family. It was an honor and a privelege to know Mrs.Kathey during my years at LHS and to work with the entire Kathey family. I often sought her advice regarding the danceline and always appreciated her valuable insights. Mrs. Kathey's wonderful contributions to the lives of so many are immeasurable.

June 2 at 5:56 AM

LT

**Lavonda \"Sam\" Taylor** posted:

My heart is sad at the news of the passing of my friend Joan. We became great friends at Hoj Poj and Hair. Joan was a beautiful woman inside and out. She will be greatly missed. My love and prayers go out to all of her family. I will cherish our great memories.

June 2 at 5:56 AM

MK

**Mary K** posted:

My heart goes out to you, Kamal and the boys. She is in a better place and at peace.\r\nGod be with you and grant you peace.\r\nlove and hugs\r\nMary K.

June 2 at 5:56 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Joan Kathey**

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012



**Vicki Jackson West** posted:

My family was military and I had been taking dance prior to joining Mrs. Kathey and that was 1970. I finished dance my Senior yr. Years later my children went to her. I have and will continue to think of her often with laughter, kindness and love. I don't have one bad memory until now. I want to thank her family for sharing her with so many esp. me and mine. My life was touched and filled with joy, love and a good dose of hard work. I believe there will be dancing in Heaven and I know a really good teacher!

June 2 at 5:56 AM



**Susan (Platt) Parbhoo** posted:

Sharing in your grief this Resurrection weekend over Joan's homegoing but celebrating that glorious reunion we await which has begun for her already! Thank you for the wonderful obituary. You all are among my favorite folks from my short years in Leesville and Trinity congregation!

June 2 at 5:56 AM



**Cindy & Rick Wilcox** posted:

When I registered our daughter for Ballet and Tap lessons in 1978, little did I know that I would gain a great friend for the next 34 years.

June 2 at 5:56 AM



**Tracy Bedell** posted:

My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Joan was an inspiration to all and she never failed to brighten someone's day. I loved her laugh and her outlook on life. She will be so missed but we were so blessed to have in our lives. Keeping you close in thoughts and prayers.

June 2 at 5:56 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Joan Kathey**

APR 3, 1934 - APR 3, 2012

JB

**Jenny Enloe Browning** posted:

Mrs. Kathey was one of the greatest women I have ever known. She shaped a lot of people's lives and we are better for having known her. We are the ones that are blessed to have had her in our life. Your family should be very proud of their wife and mother as I know you all are.

June 2 at 5:56 AM

IJ

**Ivy Jeane** posted:

May God give you many wonderful memories during this difficult time.

June 2 at 5:56 AM

SS

**Sandra Partain Sharbeno** posted:

I spent many years in Mrs. Kathey's studio, she taught me many lessons that I use today. She touched each student in a different way, she used whatever avenue she could to reach them. With me, her wit and sarcasm. I will not only remember her pushing me to become more as a dancer but as a person, challenging me to become more because she knew I could. I pray her legacy lives on through the dance studio and graces many more youngsters to come. She will be deeply missed by all that knew her.

June 2 at 5:56 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit