



Carol A. Oakes

April 18, 1944 - August 3, 2023

Carol A. Burgess Oakes passed from this life on August 3, 2023 in San Antonio, Texas. She was born on April 18, 1944 at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, to Robert L. Burgess and Harriett Dibble Burgess. Carol was preceded in death by her parents and step-mother, Dorothy Burgess. She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Ernest Oakes; sister, Vickie Ritchey (Dan); brother, Robert L. Burgess (Jamie); sister-in-law, Linda Prince (Paul); brother-in-law, Clint Okes (Carole); one special “son” D J Bauch, and 11 nieces & nephews.

Carol lived on San Antonio’s west side from infancy till her marriage to Ernie in 1967. She attended Mt. Olive Lutheran School and Horace Mann Junior High before graduating with honors from Thomas Jefferson HS and Trinity University in San Antonio. Carol was hired by the United States Air Force in 1966 (met Airman Oakes) as a computer programmer. Carol advanced through the civil service ranks retiring in April 2001 as Director for C4 Systems, Joint Information Operations Center, Kelly AFB, Texas.

In her retirement years, she enjoyed doing the NY Times crosswords with husband, Ernie, but only Thursday thru Sunday as Monday to Wednesday were too easy. Always up for the 2 Cs, cruising and casinos, she went on her last cruise for her birthday in April 2023. Gorgeous Lake Tahoe was visited twice a year for a quarter century. She enjoyed over 50 years of trips to West Virginia to visit Ernie’s family.

For the past 15 years, Carol and Ernie were truly blessed by the love and companionship of their Snowshoe Siamese Cat, Peshi. A stray that entered their life in 2008, he was their one constant. During Carol's last 30 days in the hospital, every morning Ernie had to report whether Peshi had come in for the night. Peshi is a primarily outdoor cat and they often struggled to coax him to come in for the night.

For the past 48+ years, Carol and Ernie have lived in Park Forest, the best neighborhood in San Antonio. And within this neighborhood, in their cul-de-sac they had the cream of the crop for neighbors and friends. Dr. Robert Shoumaker and wife, Kay, and Dr. James Fowler and wife, Nancy, shared 40+ years of trips, Broadway shows, dinners, parties, and friendships with Carol and Ernie

For over 40 years, Carol enjoyed the company and friendship of her sisters in Preceptor Xi Tau Social Sorority. Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day luncheons, trips to the Guadalupe and Frio Rivers, and the annual Christmas brunch hosted by Carol and Ernie were highlights of their year.

A lover of the arts, Carol was a long time season ticket holder to the SA Symphony, a season ticket holder to Broadway Series from the 1st show in 1982, a season ticket holder to the SA Opera, attended the Metropolitan Opera live simulcasts and attended numerous locally produced shows.

As many of you reading her obituary can attest, Carol was adept at and took immense pleasure in creating custom greeting cards for family and friends.

Carol and Ernie would like to thank the staff at Methodist Hospital, Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas for their care and efforts for over 30 days trying to overcome Carol's health woes.

A big thank you to Pastor Chris and Pastor Andy, from Shepherd (Shepherd of the Hills), for their caring visits to Carol over her last few days. Carol's last remaining travel outside her home was counting church offerings once a month. A big worry was that her counting partner would not be informed that she would not be there for the July counting. Carol served in many positions at Shepherd of the Hills including on the first school board and as an

“elderette” (her term).

According to Ernie’s sister, a big thank you to Vickie, the angel Ernie didn’t know he needed, but arrived in time to provide respite as Carol’s struggles progressed through the days and nights over the month of July.

A true positive came from Carol’s health struggles. Over their 55+ years, Ernie and Carol, like many longtime married couples, had come to take each other for granted, looking at but not truly seeing the person in front of them, forgetting all those wonderful reasons they came together. During the long hours alone in the hospital, as they discussed their truly blessed life, they recommitted to each other for whatever the future would hold. A sure sign to Ernie that they were one spirit again was when Carol once again repeatedly referred to him as “Ernie” instead of “Chuck” or a couple of less flattering names. Too late now for them to enjoy their newly rekindled love and respect for one another, but for those of you reading this, take the time to remember the why and look once again into the eyes of the one you so long ago loved so openly and deeply.

Quoting Ernie, “I didn’t deserve her, but I was the luckiest man alive to have found the only woman that could tolerate me for a week, much less 55 glorious years.”

Please in lieu of flowers (Ft. Sam Houston only allows 3 floral tributes which includes the casket spray) or other remembrances, send a donation in Carol’s name to: San Antonio Pets Alive, the San Antonio Humane Society, or the church she loved, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Serving as pallbearers: Allen Adair, D J Bauch, Maisie Burgess, Kemal Cinaroglu, Dan Ritchey, Rod Sively, Jimmy Stead

SERVICES

Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023 beginning at 11:30am followed by a 12:30pm service led by Rev. Dr. Christopher “Chris” Kennedy at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 6914 Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, Texas, 78240. Interment will follow at 2:15pm at Ft. Sam Houston National

Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, Texas, 78209

For personal acknowledgement, please sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com in the Tributes section.

MISSION PARK FUNERAL CHAPELS NORTH

3401 CHERRY RIDGE DR.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230

(210) 349-1414

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 10. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
6914 Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78240

Funeral Service

AUG 10. 12:30 PM (CT)

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
6914 Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78240

Interment

AUG 10. 2:15 PM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Tribute Wall

MH

“ I just learned the sad, sad news about Carol today and I cried. A life well lived. You two were an amazing couple - so intelligent, talented & had so many wonderful adventures. We lived too far away to see much of you. Those early years were such a fantastic challenge & the future was bright ahead.

Christmas is such a sad time, as I well know. I remember all Carol's beautiful nativity sets. I know that she made life better for so many with her work as 'elderette'

*May God go with you each day.
Lynn Ann Hazelwood & Family*

Mrs William Hazelwood - December 15, 2023 at 11:29 AM

MM

“ Uncle Ernie,

Words cannot describe the feeling and it breaks my heart every time I think of this being realization.

I have always looked up to both you and Aunt Carol for the life you have built together and the love you shared with us. It was truly a pleasure when the opportunity arose to visit you guys and get you one-on-one; which I will cherish those times forever.

Much aloha and love to you,

Matt

Matt Mitchell - September 04, 2023 at 09:49 AM

FM

“ Carol was the best supervisor I could have hoped for throughout my 30+ years working on Security Hill. She was my mentor and advisor, and I credit her for my success in IT support. She strongly advocated for my participation in the Stanford Sloan Fellowship program that allowed me (us) to earn a master’s degree from Stanford University. In effect, she was grooming me to become her successor and knew exactly what was required to make that happen, which indeed came to pass upon her retirement in 2001. I could never fill her big shoes, but my ability to carry on was an undeniable testament to her exceptional mentorship, guidance, foresight, and leadership. I am forever grateful for the sage advice and steadfast support she provided throughout my entire career. While I am deeply saddened by her home-going, I find comfort in knowing that she is now at home with the Lord. God bless her lovely soul.

My sincere condolences to Ernie and the entire family. May God grant you strength, peace, and comfort at this most difficult time.

Frank Madkins

Frank Madkins - August 09, 2023 at 07:31 PM

EO

Frank, I think Carol recognized early on that you were one special person. I know that you fulfilled all that she had hoped for you.

Ernie Oakes - August 29, 2023 at 10:43 PM

EO

“ 85 files added to the album Carol Oakes Memories



Ernie Oakes - August 08, 2023 at 01:14 PM

LP

I love these memories you shared. I loved Carol as if she were my sister. Prayers for you my precious brother for peace and healing. I love you.

linda prince - August 20, 2023 at 12:07 AM

LW

“ *I am so very sorry to hear this news. Carol was a wonderful woman and a great mentor to the many women who worked with and for her - including myself. I will forever be grateful for the way she took me under her wing when I was assigned to her Directorate and for all she did to help me in my career. So many wonderful memories of her and the wonderfully colored suits she wore to work every day - we all waited to see which one she would wear - she truly brightened up the day. My thoughts and prayers are with her family - I know she is resting at peace with the Lord.*

Linda Willis - August 08, 2023 at 11:44 AM

EO

Thank you, Linda. As you know, Carol certainly respected you and your abilities. She spoke of you often.

Ernie Oakes - August 09, 2023 at 12:57 PM

AS

“ For 12 years my husband Jimmy and I and our three children have been blessed with Carol and Ernie as our Park Forest neighbors. Carol instantly made our family feel welcome from the day we moved in, and together with Ernie never missed an opportunity to model the true spirit of community in the neighborhood she loved. From celebrating our baby’s baptism with us, to planning a large farewell party for our dear neighbors the James family, to creating a custom condolence card for our children when our dog Lola passed, Carol always led with her heart.

Carol, I will miss our fence line and balcony chats about current events, and hearing your voice calling out to greet us, including the dog. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the years of kindness shown to our family.

*With love and gratitude,
Aimee, Jimmy, Elliott, Donovan and Cecily Stead*

Aimee Stead - August 07, 2023 at 05:41 PM

EO

It thrills us to see new, young neighbors move in Park Forest. Our generation was a true neighborhood, where we knew every one's name, cared about our neighbors and had great over the fence conversations. And we see this continuing with families like the Steads. Carol and I have so appreciated your friendship and kindness over past few years.

Ernie Oakes - August 07, 2023 at 11:40 PM

SY

“Ernie, I was so sorry to learn of Carol's passing yesterday at church. I got to know Carol about 10 years ago when I worked at the church, and she came faithfully every month to count offerings. At some point, we learned we shared the same birthday (although I always reminded her I'd always be younger). We exchanged cards every birthday after that, but of course hers were handmade which made them very special. We also sat in the same pew every Sunday beside each other for many years, and she always let me know when she would be absent on one of her many trips to Lake Tahoe and West VA. She also gave me a number of Christmas ornaments and a beautiful angel as gifts, and they are even more special now. I've missed her the past few years, but we did keep in touch by email when we had some news to share. We also met once for lunch after COVID subsided. Unfortunately, I didn't know she was ill or I would have tried to visit her in the hospital. May you find peace and comfort now knowing she is with the Lord, and you can cherish the many memories of good times you shared.

Shirley Yoakum

Shirley Yoakum - August 07, 2023 at 03:49 PM

EO

Thank you, Shirley. She spoke of you often and enjoyed your shared experiences.

Ernie Oakes - August 07, 2023 at 04:37 PM



“Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Carol A. Oakes.



August 07, 2023 at 01:39 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Carol A. Oakes.



August 06, 2023 at 07:32 AM