



Pearl R. Kalver

November 30, 1929 - July 31, 2020

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Pearl Duderstadt VanBuren Kalver passed away at home on July 31, 2020. She was an active, vibrant, engaged 90 year old until the tragic accidental death of her daughter, Donna, on May 6. Following that, her health began to rapidly decline.

Pearl was born in San Antonio, Texas, on November 30, 1929, to Albert Duderstadt and Thelma Fawcett Duderstadt. She was in the Purple Jackets at Brackenridge High School and graduated from there in 1947. In 1948 she married Douglas VanBuren and they soon had three children, Karla, Donna, and Richard. Pearl's greatest joy was being a Mom and she was a great one. Doug was a home builder and Pearl partnered with him by drawing house plans and designing the exterior and interior of many of the homes he built. She loved designing spaces which may have led to her passion for moving so that she could design something new for her family and herself each time she moved. During her life she lived in eighteen homes- fifteen in San Antonio, one in Center Point, two in Kerrville.

Pearl and Doug later divorced and in 1980 Pearl married Hank Kalver. They enjoyed eighteen very happy years together, traveling and enjoying their

property in Center Point. They were married until Hank passed away in 1998.

When Richard was a toddler, Pearl decided to go to college to get her degree to become a school teacher. While raising three young children, she earned her degree in education and graduated magna cum laude in 1963 from Trinity University. She immediately began teaching 3rd grade at Highland Hills Elementary School. She loved teaching and loved her students. She was a devoted teacher and spent many hours each night creating ways to make learning enjoyable for them. She taught at Highland Hills until she retired in 1983 to take care of her Mother who was terminally ill.

Pearl was an active member of St Andrew's Methodist Church. For several years she was a volunteer worker at the Fig Leaf thrift shop of the Agape Ministry. She also delivered meals for Meals on Wheels ministry for many years. She served faithfully for years on the Church Sanctuary committee and, because of her creative skills, for many years she was asked to create the decorations for special occasions, especially for the annual Christmas luncheon.

She loved being with friends and for 20 years had friends in her home weekly to play chicken foot or rummikub, along with a tasty dessert. Pearl loved people, watching old movies on TV, reading books about the teachings of the Bible, working in the yard, cooking, and baking. She loved looking at the sky--- watching the clouds change shapes, and enjoying the beautiful colors in sunsets and rainbows. She was a great cook and loved to bake and she prepared several meals and desserts that were considered "specialties" by her family and friends. She loved her home and spent hours almost every day in her back yard. It pleased her greatly to live independently in her own home.

Anyone who met Pearl enjoyed the blessing of her sweetness. She became a special friend to everyone she met and many referred to her as "Sweet Pearl".

In addition to being sweet, she was strong, resilient, kind, respected, stubborn, generous, creative, determined, impatient, courageous, resourceful, and had a quiet and delightful sense of humor. She loved the Lord and her faith was strong.

Her life is not chronicled with great deeds as the world counts them but with the extraordinary way she faced adversities with quiet courage, calm dignity, prayerful determination, and graceful acceptance.... never complaining, always sweet , always grateful.

Even in her final and very difficult days, she focused on blessings and found something to laugh about every day. Her kindness lives on in the hearts of the people who knew her.

Pearl was predeceased by her husband, Hank Kalver; her parents; her brothers, John and Carl Duderstadt; and daughter, Donna VanBuren Woods.

She is survived by and will be deeply missed by her sister, Emalou Marek; daughter, Karla Fulton; son and daughter in law, Richard and Terri VanBuren; son in law Fred Woods; her grandchildren, Eric and Maren VanBuren; Karl and Lerin VanBuren; John, Kevin, and Heather Montgomery; Merideth Wilson, Allison Fulton, Alexis Czyzewski; great-grandchildren, Oline VanBuren, Ashlyn, Cade, and Walker Montgomery, Oliver and Leo Czyzewski, Ben and Claire Wilson; sister in law, Shirley Duderstadt; fourteen nieces and nephews.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to friends and family who sustained them through prayer during this difficult time. And, thank you to Darleen Park and her Beacon Hospice team for their comforting care.

Because of covid, the service will be a private family graveside service. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St Andrews Methodist Church or to

your own favorite charity in memory of Sweet Pearl.

Please go online to www.missionparks.com to leave a message to the family.

Tribute Wall

HM

“ *I remember Aunt Pearl exhibiting such a kind, loving, and welcoming presence. When she would come visit my grandma, they would never skip a beat laughing and talking about their childhood memories.* ”

Halie Hamilton (Marek) - August 14, 2020 at 09:05 PM

GM

“ I remember her making breakfast and eating in the dining area that had pencil sketches of my cousins on the wall. The love she had for her children was palpable. I remember her melodic voice. I also remember her hair and the twinkle in her eyes.

I remember how well decorated and furnished her home was. I remember later when I 1st saw how my Mom transformed her living room and bedroom into what looked like a stylish bread and breakfast Hotel, her comment was, "Pearl deserves credit for most of this." So 'I'll have a sense of her taste and style every day when I gaze upon those rooms.

I remember her driving her Civic down to visit mom for a visit and our one on one conversation about her revised views on religion /faith and mine as well. Then somehow we transitioned into a discussion on J.R. Tolkien and "The Lord of The Rings". Their were other wide ranging topics as well. It was a great talk just between us and I'll never forget it.

I remember her and Moms enjoyment of old fashioned goofy toys .I remember when she and Mom left their stoicism behind and acted like 2 school girls at times.

What I really remember was her laugh. When she and Mom got on a roll together it sounded like two angels laughing in harmony. Such a joyful pure sound that I will not forget.

I am ill and cannot attend her funeral which tears at my soul, but I will be there in spirit.

I love you Aunt Pearl,
Glenn Marek

glenn marek - August 14, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pearl R. Kalver.*



August 13, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ *I did not have the privilege of knowing Pearl personally. I only knew of her through her devoted and adoring daughter, Karla, and a few of our mutual friends. What a pleasure it would have been to know this gracious, gifted lady of faith. I look forward to meeting her when we sit together at the feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Jim Skokan - August 11, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ *I was privileged to meet Sweet Pearl through her amazing daughter Karla. Pearl stories were deep and wide and we loved learning about her faith and her extraordinary talents. Her home was warm and lovely with personal treasures. Shortly before Pearls death we enjoyed a beautiful lunch in Pearls home.. she felt her hibiscus was in full blossom because we were coming... a precious time.*

RebeccaM Harrison - August 10, 2020 at 07:14 PM

LH

“ I remember when I was a young girl, how beautiful and graceful Aunt Pearl always seemed to me. I sometimes felt nervous around her, wanting to do and say the right thing. While visiting my grandparents in San Antonio one summer, Aunt Pearl asked me if I wanted to go to school with her one day and help her grade papers and assist with other duties. I was thrilled! I had such a wonderful time spending the day with Aunt Pearl and helping her (at least I hoped I helped and didn't create further work for her!). Aunt Pearl was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. And she made the most delicious home-made ice cream! Although living in California, I didn't have a lot of opportunities to see Pearl, she leaves an indelible mark on me. Grace...that is the word that always comes to mind first when I think of Pearl. And now by the grace of God, she is with her Father in Heaven for eternity and I look forward to seeing her again someday. My thoughts and prayers to Karla, Richard and Pearl's extended family as I know the loss they are feeling. Rest in peace dear Pearl -- your work on earth is done.

Lisa Harris - August 10, 2020 at 05:20 PM

DA

“ My dear sweet friend ,Pearl. She was my best friends mother, always loving, kind and welcoming. My children had another name for her, Aunt Prell. She was babysitting for me while Donna took me to my appt. Lo and behold they kept me for the delivery of my 2nd child and Aunt Prell was babysitting for a much longer time than she had signed up for. Wonderful memories. She and her daughter will be missed so much. Dana Long Scheel

Dana - August 10, 2020 at 04:21 PM

BG

“ I knew Pearl through her daughter, my good friend, Karla. I visited in her home several times. She was a gracious hostess who never chose to be the center of attention, instead sitting back and relishing the stories of others. Karla was a loving daughter who seamlessly moved into the role of caretaker and constant companion. She and Pearl became like roommates, sharing mani-pedis and hair salon parties, old movies and ice cream. They were a beautiful example of devotion. I know she's made Heaven a brighter place with her sweet nature and loving smile.

Betty Gerlach - August 10, 2020 at 02:28 PM

JS

I did not have the privilege of knowing Pearl personally. I only knew of her through her devoted and adoring daughter, Karla, and a few of our mutual friends. What a pleasure it would have been to know this gracious, gifted lady of faith. I look forward to meeting her when we sit together at the feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jim Skokan - August 11, 2020 at 11:01 PM

FC

“ My deepest sympathies to the Van Buren Family and her many loved ones.
Pearl had a kind and gentle soul with the sweetest laugh...a true lady.
While visiting Donna at their house on Chesterfield - I can still smell her fresh baked brownies.
I will miss her and my dear friend Donna.

Love to Karla, Richard and Fred

Frances Chance

Frances Chance - August 10, 2020 at 11:53 AM

MP

“ *Mission Park lit a candle in memory of Pearl R. Kalver*



Mission Park - August 10, 2020 at 10:26 AM

MT

“ *I have very warm memories of Pearl from many years ago. She was always so very gracious and kind. I extend deepest sympathy to the family and especially Richard and Karla....what a wonderful mother!!*
Mike Thomas

Mike Thomas - August 08, 2020 at 09:43 AM

CH

“ *Sincere sympathies go to Pearl's family. She is deeply missed and will remain lovingly in your hearts forever. Thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Cyndi and Hal Hensley*

Cyndi Hensley - August 08, 2020 at 09:12 AM