



Shirley Jean Yates

November 20, 1935 - May 7, 2024

Shirley Jean Yates, who was born in Waco, Texas on November 20th, 1935 passed away on May 7, 2024 at the age of 88, in San Antonio, Texas.

Shirley was widely known for her creativity with flowers, decorating, and jewelry. She filled the family home with all manner of creations and had a penchant for decorating with found flora, often saying “I’m going to spray paint it gold”. Her crafts at home turned into work as a full-time florist in Abilene, Texas. Her abilities were well known in the city and drew a substantial following. As much as she was known for her creative talents, Shirley was equally acknowledged for her ease of engaging conversation. To say she had the gift of gab would be a serious understatement.

Shirley loved to travel and went on multiple cruises with her husband Jimmy. She visited many countries around the world and had a genuine sense of adventure. Her travels sparked some unexpected situations such as when she had to explain to Customs and Immigration officials that the white powder in a plastic bag, found in her luggage was, in fact, Tide detergent.

Her love of the beach led her and Jimmy to take up residence on Padre Island

for many years. Her long strolls looking for seashells yielded some incredible finds. It was often said there were more shells in her home than in the sea itself.

Above all, Shirley was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who cared deeply for her family and always put their needs first. Her love for Jimmy, whom she met on a blind date in Oklahoma City in 1953, marrying soon after, has no equal. For her children and grandchildren she made the best lunchtime sandwiches, chicken and dumplings and, for a sweet treat, potato chip cookies. She will be deeply missed by all.

Shirley is preceded in death by her daughter, Deborah and her husband Phil Pellegrino. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Jimmy D. Yates, her son Dennis and wife Delinda Yates, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. on May 13, 2024 at the Chambers Chapel located passed the creek located at the back of Mission Burial Park North Cemetery by the Dominion, 20900 IH 10 W, San Antonio, TX 78257.

Interment to follow within walking distance of the chapel. Viewing for the public to begin at 9:30 a.m.

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park North

20900 I.H. 10
West San Antonio, TX 78230

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Chambers Chapel at Mission Burial Park North
20900 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257

Interment

MAY 13. 11:30 AM (CT)

Mission Burial Park North
20900 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257

Tribute Wall

SY

“ One of my earliest memories was from when my Grandparents came to visit when my sister Julie was born in Germany...they took me to Paris and we visited the Eiffel Tower where I discovered I was terrified of heights which it turns out has only gotten worse over time.

I have a large grouping of memories from when we returned to the US from Saudi and got to live with our Grandparents at their house here in San Antonio:

We followed Grandma Shirley around like shadows & she happily mothered us with manicures on the back patio, making us pancakes for breakfast (with peanut butter, if you haven't tried it...you're welcome), teaching us the art of baking her famous potato chip cookies (which I hope I did them justice for the service), showing us how to put together floral arrangements (which stuck with Julie but I might just be a lost cause), letting us have whatever snack we wanted (even if it was close to dinner), fussing over us when we were sick & making us white rice with butter & salt (which I'm still convinced will cure any ailment), taking us on all her local adventures like bargain hunting at Solo Serve & grocery runs to Albertson's and teaching us life skills like the time she grabbed a scorpion by hand, threw it in the sink & lit a match next to it and it stung itself 🤪

But when we weren't living close by we loved spending vacations together

-Decorating the Christmas tree & learning the stories of all her ornament collection

-trying to learn how to make gift bows when she made it look so easy (and here I am 30 years later still trying)

-Walks on the beach collecting sea shells

-hearing her adventures with Grandpa in Hawaii (pronounced Hawayaaahh), Las Vegas & numerous cruises.

As we all got older & started having kids of our own the visits weren't as frequent but it made them that much memorable when

we were all together.

I can still hear her making Donald Duck noises to her GREAT grand babies making them laugh & thinking it was the best sound of all time.

And even in the most recent memories she would come back to us without skipping a beat. She was always listening but just in “sleep mode” we learned when Emily & Jordan announced they were engaged & out of nowhere “Well it’s about time”...eyes still closed

So now when you are announcing your big news, going on your life’s adventures I hope you can hear her in the back of your mind and knowing she would know exactly what to say in each and every moment.

Sarah Yates - May 14, 2024 at 01:48 PM

DY

“ Everyone knows the bad connotation associated with Mother-in-Law. I received the BEST one with Shirley. Talk about a selfless person. Always there for family. ☐ Of all the places we moved to, she & Jim always came to visit us. Our kids have been blessed with knowing her & Jim since birth. She & I always called each other “Girlfriend” or “Bag Lady” cause we carried plastic bags for whatever. We had so many laughs, lengthy chats, heart to heart talks & many Happy Hours 🍷 We’d always say “it’s 5 o’clock somewhere! We never had a disagreement. She ALWAYS had my back. She was always willing to come stay with our kids, our fur babies, meet us at Disney World, or whatever we needed. It was nice when we finally moved back to Texas & they were able to stay the weekend or sometimes I’d go visit them too. We’d have girlfriend time while the guys went to a UT Football game. So many wonderful memories I will always treasure...Here’s to you Girlfriend. Love you 4 Ever 🍷 ☐ 🥰”



Delinda Yates - May 11, 2024 at 06:02 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley Jean Yates.*



May 10, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ *Office of the Mayor and City Council planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Jean Yates.*

Office of the Mayor and City Council - May 10, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ *Glenda D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Jean Yates.*

Glenda D. - May 10, 2024 at 11:08 AM



“ *My beloved grandmother, how dearly you are loved. All of my fondest memories of childhood involve you. I will never smell spearmint gum and leather and not think of all the times riding in your car on the way home from school. I loved sitting on the back porch with you. I loved your love of seashells. I inherited your love of the ocean. After all, it runs in us ‘Yates’ girls. I have never known a world without you in it but know that your love lives on in me. Until we meet again, I love you ‘Gammy’.*

Julie McDonald - May 09, 2024 at 09:41 PM

DC

“ Diane Chavez purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Shirley Jean Yates.



Diane Chavez - May 09, 2024 at 09:39 PM

NJ

“ Nick and Virginia Jevric purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Shirley Jean Yates.



Nick and Virginia Jevric - May 09, 2024 at 03:35 PM

NJ

“ Nick and Virginia Jevric planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Jean Yates.

Nick and Virginia Jevric - May 09, 2024 at 03:35 PM