



Susan Helen Ford

November 10, 1951 - November 1, 2020

Susan Helen Saunders Maniscalco Ford was born to parents, Thomas Joseph and Ruby Saunders (both deceased), on November 10, 1951, in San Antonio, Texas. Susan married John Douglas Ford on June 3, 2002. Following a hypertensive bleed (similar to a stroke) on May 11, 2003, Susan enjoyed a life blessed with God's Grace and went to Heaven on All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.

A creative elementary school teacher, accomplished horsewoman, talented artist, inspired writer and savvy business woman, Susan was most proud of her role as mother to her two fine sons, Mark Christian Maniscalco and Joseph Saunders Maniscalco, reared with her husband, Mark Charles Maniscalco, all living in San Antonio.

In addition to her two sons, Mark and Joe, Susan is survived by her husband, John D. Ford; sister, Janet Ann Saunders; sister-in-law, Sharon Saunders; sister-in-law, Linda Ford Howard and husband, Michael; sister-in-law, Wandita Ford Turner; brother-in-law, Michael O'Neil Ford; niece, Kathryn Saunders Craven and husband, Jonathan, and their children, Astin and Tyler; nephew, Charles Saunders and wife, Suzanne, and their children, Jackson and Josephine; nephew, Thomas O'Neil Turner and wife, Melissa, and their children, Luke Bowen and Prezley Dior Turner; niece, Lorene Kohleffel and husband, Michael, and their children, Jacob, Luke and Olivia, as well as family

members in Wimberley, Texas, and a host of friends scattered in many places. Susan's beloved brother, Don W. Saunders, went to Heaven on May 1, 2017.

Susan graduated from Keystone High School in San Antonio, Class of 1969, and Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, now known as Texas State University. Much loved by her students, "Mrs. Susan" taught elementary school at Mount Sacred Heart and retired for health reasons from Pershing Elementary School in 2003. Susan marketed a popular line of hand-painted "trastero" storage cabinets, as well as other furniture, tin artwork, rubber stamps and "Happy Tomato Surprise" T-shirts.

Throughout her life, Susan was surrounded by cats and dogs, and she loved horses. She painted beautiful portraits of Thoroughbred horses and, also, won lots of ribbons, belt buckles, and trophies in American Quarter Horse competition. Susan's horse, Tandy Bud, was her best friend. A quintessential animal lover, Susan enjoyed the parakeets, cockatiels and doves in aviaries at her home and willingly shared space with the peacocks, peahens, and guineas, who freely roam outside. Susan liked watching the many, vibrant redbirds who perched and visited outside the window as she rode her recumbent bicycle. A special joy was watching her husband, John, feed a flock of wild Mexican Whistling Ducks that arrive (hungry!) each day. Inspired by the various bird sounds that filled her daily life, Susan wrote a poem:

I wrote this poem about the
morning bird sounds I hear every day.

A NEW DAY NEEDS TO BE SUNG TO
Susan Ford

Honking cacophony
Goose step symmetry

Tree frogs chirp
Morning's mirth
When ducks fly in
The *hymnphony begins
A paeon to the birth of day
Morning breaks at Willow Way

[*hymn + symphony]

Susan was a devout Catholic believer and a powerful witness to the faithfulness of Almighty God, often advising, "Be sure God's on your Bucket List!" If you met Susan, you were assured an invitation to a Mariachi Mass at her church, Mission San Jose. Susan encouraged and prayed for those she encountered during kidney dialysis, and she inspired more than a few to follow her example of reading the Bible during treatments. On at least one occasion, Susan's friendly conversation in a doctor's waiting room eventually included and blessed every patient present. As each leaned in to listen attentively, Susan boldly shared a personal concern, "People don't believe God keeps His promises." Susan believed God!

Anytime Susan learned that someone had died, without hesitation, Susan would blurt out excitedly to her sister, Janet, "Oh, Hon, just imagine -- they've seen the face of Jesus!" And now Susan has! Praise God! Hallelujah! We will see you again, Susan!

[Susan attended and taught in public, private and parochial schools. She loved and supported the important work of Blessed Hope Academy, a school that provides "A Positive Educational Solution" for both advanced and at-risk students in San Antonio and the surrounding areas. The non-profit 501(c)(3) is located at:

Blessed Hope Academy, 3355 Cherry Ridge Street, #200A, San Antonio,
Texas 78230.]

No services are planned at this time.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I met her working in the medical field...she was a warm caring and very knowledgeable woman and she had a determination that a lot of us don't have....she reminded us of how God is still present in your life no matter yet...shes been gone a while already but I still glhavent forgetting Mrs. Ford nor her smile and thanking us for being there for her at her office visits...such a wonderful woman..

Debbie smith - February 23, 2023 at 04:01 PM

MR

“ I met Susan close to 20 years ago. I met her through my Uncle John. She was a beautiful woman. Inside and out. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to know her. John, you are in my thoughts and in my heart. You two had such a wonderful love. That was clear to anyone who knew you both. ❤️

Melanie Reitmeyer - November 24, 2020 at 12:50 PM