



## Mrs. Belinda Cates Ratcliff

September 18, 1957 - June 11, 2020

Funeral services for Mrs. Belinda Cates Ratcliff, 62, of Carthage, Texas will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas with Bro. David Nugent officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery in Jasper. A visitation will be held in Carthage, Texas at the Hawthorn Funeral Home 4-7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14, 2020. A visitation in Jasper, Texas will be at the Stringer Griffin Funeral Home 5-8:00 p.m. Monday, June 15, 2020.

Mrs. Belinda Ellen Cates Ratcliff was born September 18, 1957 in Malvern, Arkansas. She passed this life June 11, 2020 at her home in Carthage, TX. Belinda was the oldest of three children born to the marriage of Dennis Lee and Betty Norwood Cates. She was raised and schooled in Malvern, Arkansas graduating with the high school class of 1975. She attended Tyler Junior College, serving as an Apache Belle and President of the San Souci Sorority. She obtained her Bachelor's in Education through Sam Houston State University, majoring in English and Physical Education with an emphasis on dance.

Belinda married Timothy John Ratcliff July 14, 1979 and they celebrated almost 41 years of marriage. Belinda's career in professional education would span 41 years. She taught in Jasper ISD, Palestine-Westwood ISD, Tatum ISD, and Carthage ISD, making a difference in students' lives. She served as cheerleader sponsor for 18 years in Jasper, and U.I.L. Academics sponsor in Westwood and Carthage I.S.D.

Belinda valued her family above all else. One of her greatest pleasures was spoiling her grandbabies with “prizes”. Being “BeBe” was one of her most treasured titles.

In addition to BeBe, she also was a “Steel Magnolia Sister”. A special bond shared between her and her Steel Sisters. They are well known for their elaborate routines at family celebrations. In all chapters of life, they have relied on one another and have been by each other's side through the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. Belinda forever cherished the relationship she shared with the Steels.

She is preceded in death by her father, Dennis Cates and a brother, Eddie Cates.

Mrs. Ratcliff is survived by her devoted husband Tim Ratcliff of Carthage, TX; mother, Betty Cates of Malvern, AR; daughter, Lauren McSwain and husband Brad of Magnolia, TX; son, Christopher Ratcliff and wife Lisa of Hemphill, TX; brother, Ronnie Cates of Pine Bluff, AR; grandchildren, Emma, Camden, and Brady McSwain all of Magnolia, TX, Reagan and Macy Wall, and John Knox Ratcliff all of Hemphill, TX; sister-in-law, Kim Cates of Longview, TX; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers donations to, [gifts.mdanderson.org](https://gifts.mdanderson.org) in memory of Belinda Ratcliff for Cancer Neurology c/o Dr. Anne Klieman.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

North Main Street  
Jasper, TX 75951

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN **14.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel  
307 W Wellington St.  
Carthage, Tx

## Visitation

JUN **15.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stringer Griffin Funeral Home  
2577 North Wheeler Highway 96 North  
Jasper, TX 75951

## Service

JUN **16.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillcrest Baptist Church  
3196 US Hwy 190 West  
Jasper, TX 75951



# Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Belinda Gates Ratcliff



Hawthorn Funeral Home - June 13, 2020 at 08:29 PM

BC

*Beautiful tribute, beautiful lady!  
Our deepest sympathy to you all!  
Brenda (Schneider) Carmean*

Brenda Carmean - June 15, 2020 at 10:29 AM

LW

*We have been honored and blessed to to know such a precious lady.  
Our love and prayers are with you.  
Rusty & LeAnn Williams  
Julie Williams Tomlinson*

LeAnn Williams - June 15, 2020 at 01:34 PM

MB

*I am so sorry for you all, I will be praying for you all during this time of your loss, Belinda was a very kind and sweet person inside and out, she will be missed greatly by everyone. Mrs.Sadie Bebee*

Mrs.Sadie Bebee - June 15, 2020 at 02:54 PM

RS

*Absolutely beautiful tribute to your loving mother!! Sending love and prayers.*

Robin Schneider - June 16, 2020 at 12:28 AM

NE

“ Timothy...I send my heartfelt sorrow and sympathy. . years have passed but In my forever memory, Belinda was The Sweetest of Souls. . One in a million. And in our life's we are blessed to have known Belinda.

Nancy Elliott

---

**Nancy Leigh Elliott** - July 15, 2020 at 08:40 PM

CA

“ I meet and came to appreciate Belinda through community and church. She belonged to a family where I had many strong ties and I always had the highest respect for her. Later my Son had Belinda in High School English and I came to cherish the kind of Teacher she was and to love her as a friend. I am so saddened for the loss to us all But I know Belinda's love for the Lord and I know that now she may be absent from this physical world but she is present with the Lord. Love to Tim, Lauren and Chris!

Connie Hambrick Anthony

---

**Connie Hambrick Anthony** - June 20, 2020 at 08:51 PM

AJ

“ Mr. Ratcliff and family, So sorry to hear of Mrs. Ratcliff's passing. She touched so many student's lives that I know she left a legacy everywhere she taught. As a teacher and colleague, I will always remember her at UIL meets. She was a go-getter! Her students were successful because of her gumption. God bless the family and many prayers to you all.

With deepest sympathy,  
Annette Johnson

---

**Annette Johnson** - June 16, 2020 at 08:58 AM

PS

“ Tim, I'm so sorry for your loss. I will be praying for you and your family as you enter this next season of your life. May God Bless you & be with you!  
Peter Schneider

Peter Schneider - June 15, 2020 at 06:56 PM

JS

I'm so sorry I just read about her yesterday I loved her ad a teacher prayer 🙏 for you and your family

jennifer spoon - June 15, 2020 at 08:50 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mrs. Belinda Cates Ratcliff.



June 14, 2020 at 11:41 PM

CD

“ I worked with Belinda many years at CHS. I always looked forward to seeing her and her smile. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Cheryl Doneghue - June 14, 2020 at 07:24 PM

SH

“ One of my special sophomores when I was a senior. Loved that girl! Awesome MHS drill team member. 💖

Sherri Adams Hollingsworth - June 14, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ *Mrs. Ratcliff was my English teacher at Jasper High. She was a great teacher. We were both amazed that we have the same first name. My condolences. Belinda Hamilton C/O 1994*



---

**Belinda Hamilton** - June 14, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ *I remember Mrs. Ratcliff; she was one of my favorite teacher's. She truly impacted my life from twirling and gymnastics when I was little to High School. Every interaction with her was special because she truly cared about students and was so loving, encouraging! May God bless her family during this time of bereavement!*

*- Vanessa Coleman-Bryant*

---

**Vanessa Coleman-Bryant** - June 14, 2020 at 12:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Belinda Cates Ratcliff.*

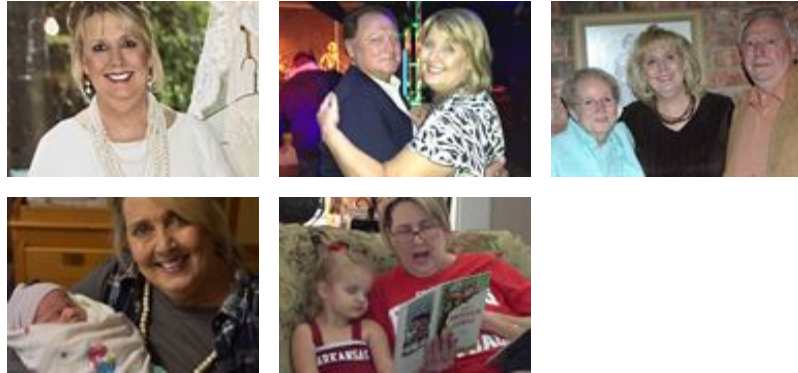


---

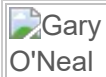
June 13, 2020 at 10:24 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - June 13, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ *Belinda was such a wonderful person. Knowing through Jr High and High School, I have many wonderful memories of her and all our friends. To her family, please know that you're all in our thoughts and prayers. And remember, for a long time, every time you think of her, you'll cry. But eventually, every time you think of her, you'll smile.*

Gary O'Neal - June 13, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Belinda Cates Ratcliff.*



June 13, 2020 at 05:16 PM

PS

“ *Belinda was always full of life. I can just hear her laugh right now. She will be missed by so many. May God give the family the peace and understanding needed to get through this difficult time.*  
*Pam Whitehead Smith*

---

**Pam Whitehead Smith** - June 13, 2020 at 01:53 PM

LT

“ *What a sweet inspiration she was to our entire family. She was my momma's colleague and friend in the English Department at Jasper High School. Both Kathryn and I were students in her classroom. I've taught English for the last 18 years---she taught me that you could make your classroom fun. The mood and spirit in her classroom was always cheerful and warm--kind of like her. Much love to the entire family.*

*Leigh Anne Treistman Class of 1985*  
*Georgia Purdy JHS Retired*  
*Kathryn Bluestone Class of 1990*

---

**Leigh Anne Treistman** - June 13, 2020 at 01:18 PM

AP

“ *Condolences goes out to Mr Tim and the family !!! Prayers are sent !!!*

---

**Amy Poindexter** - June 13, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Belinda Cates Ratcliff.*



---

June 13, 2020 at 09:01 AM

BB

“ *She was my neighbor. Each time I saw her she was such a sweetheart!  
May God give Tim and the entire family some kind of peace and comfort during days, weeks, months and years to come. Prayers for all of you...*  
*Brenda Lee Bynum*

---

**Brenda Lee Bynum** - June 13, 2020 at 12:58 AM

AS

“ *I will always remember how caring and loving she was!!! She for sure left lasting impressions on both my kids!!! Rest in peace sweet Belinda!!!*

---

**Angie Silkwood** - June 13, 2020 at 12:28 AM

MC

“ *I will always remember Belinda as an excellent educator, loving wife and mother but most of all a true friend. Working with her at Jasper High was a pleasure and I truly missed her. Tim, Lauren, Chris and the entire family remember God is in control and he will take care of you. Love you guys and you have my deepest sympathy.*

*Cauley Family  
Marva  
Jimmie c/o 2000  
Jeremy c/o 2004*

---

**Marva Cauley** - June 13, 2020 at 12:15 AM