



## Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz

January 4, 1945 - October 27, 2024

Nancilee Katherine Kaatz, 79, of Gary, Texas, passed away peacefully at her home on October 27, 2024 after a lengthy illness. She was born on January 4, 1945 in Abilene, Texas to her parents Carrie Lois Gameson and Marvin Lowrey Downey and her brother, Merwin Leon Downey, whom she adored. Nanci was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who lived a life filled with love, creativity, and faith. Over the years, she was blessed with wonderful, caring friends and she treasured those friendships deeply.

Nanci was a proud 1963 graduate of Hawley High School where she excelled both academically and athletically. After graduation, she attended business college and then went on to work in a variety of fields. A majority of her professional life was dedicated to Southwestern Bell, where she was known for her strong work ethic and warm spirit. Through her work at SWB, she met the love of her life, Bob Kaatz, and together they enjoyed 34 wonderful years of marriage.

Nanci was a talented seamstress who loved making garments, her daughter's wedding dress, home décor items, and any type of dress-up clothes or costumes her grandchildren could think of. After her retirement, she became an avid quilter and spent countless hours creating beautiful pieces that brought joy to family and friends. She was a member of both the Busy Quilters Guild and the Panola Squares Quilt Club in Carthage, TX and served as co-chair of the Piney Woods Quilt Festival for ten years. She was also a member

of “Women in Stitches”, a local hand-quilting Bee, where she made lasting friendships and enjoyed hours of fun and fellowship.

More than anything, Nanci loved spending time with and serving her family. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed having everyone gathered together, whether it was for a holiday dinner, a weeknight supper, or a weekend pizza and movie night. She and Bob shared their home openly and generously and she recounted often that she was blessed to have had five generations of her family live on the same property over the years.

She enjoyed road trips, helping in her daughter’s business, volunteering in the community, and attending any event that involved her grandchildren or great-grandchildren. Her faith and commitment to her church family were evident in her active participation in church activities, where she made even more lasting friendships, and inspired others with her kindness and generosity. Her warm smile, nurturing spirit, and unwavering love will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Nanci is preceded in death by her parents, Lois and Marvin; her brother, Merwin; and her stepson, Ronald Kaatz.

Left to cherish her memory are her devoted husband, Robert (Bob) Kaatz; her loving daughter and son-in-law Lycia & Michael Evanoff; her precious grandchildren: Matthew Dickenson & wife Jennifer, Emily Spuza & husband Preston, and Parker Dickenson; five great-grandchildren whom she cherished and adored: Henry Spuza, Tegan Spuza, Quincy Spuza, Zoe Dickenson, and Oliver Dickenson; and sister-in-law Joan Downey.

A funeral will be held in her honor at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 2, 2024 at the Tenaha Church of Christ with Dr. Andrew King officiating. Burial will follow in the Ramah Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home.

Visitation will be 6-8:00 p.m. Friday night at Hawthorn Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made in Nancilee’s honor to Tenaha Church of Christ, P.O. Box 204, Tenaha, TX 75974 or HeartsWay Hospice of Northeast Texas, P.O. Box 5608, Longview, TX 75608 or online at <https://www.heartswayhospice.org/about/donate/>.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the entire staff of HeartsWay Hospice - Carthage for their kindness, support, and care, most especially Alysha Cockerham whose guidance during our precious "Gigi's" final days with us was kind, thoughtful, and helpful beyond measure. An online guestbook may be signed at: [www.hawthornfuneralhome.com](http://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home  
307 West Wellington Street  
P.O. Box 188  
Carthage, TX 75633  
(903) 693-3816  
info@hawthornfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

NOV 2. 1:00 PM.

Tenaha Church of Christ  
Tenaha, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz



Hawthorn Funeral Home - November 03, 2024 at 11:53 AM



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz



Hawthorn Funeral Home - November 01, 2024 at 04:37 PM

MA

“ Mitchell & I are so very sorry for y'all's loss & our hearts are broken! Nancilee was such a Beautiful & Sweet Soul & so very loved & will be missed by us all! Our thoughts & prayers are with the Whole Family! Love Y'all So Much!  
Love, Mitchell & Sonya Anthony.

Mitchell & Sonya Anthony - November 01, 2024 at 01:15 PM

MA

“ Mitchell & Sonya Anthony purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz.



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**Mitchell & Sonya Anthony** - November 01, 2024 at 12:38 PM



“ 164 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Hawthorn Funeral Home** - November 01, 2024 at 11:52 AM

JG

“ Jim and Becky Goforth purchased the *Serene Re treat* for the family of Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz.



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**Jim and Becky Goforth** - October 31, 2024 at 04:10 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz.*



October 30, 2024 at 10:33 PM



“ *Nancilee and I started in the First Grade and were together in College. She was a bridesmaid in my wedding. She was a sister that I didn't have. She was a wonderful friend and will be missed. God bless the family and my love is with you and your family. Billie Dean(Hollis) Poston. Natrona Heights, Pa.*

**Billie Dean Poston** - October 30, 2024 at 08:47 PM



*Thank you Billie Dean. She loved you like a sister too and shared many memories of the two of you with us over the years.*

**Lycia Evanoff** - October 30, 2024 at 11:32 PM



“ *Amy Kaatz & Sara Melvin purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Nancilee Katherine Kaatz.*



**Amy Kaatz & Sara Melvin** - October 30, 2024 at 06:47 PM



“ *My heart is broken. Nancilee was a beloved friend.*

**carolyn** - October 30, 2024 at 06:11 PM



*She loved you very much and treasured your friendship. Y'all had some great times together and made lots of special memories.*

**Lycia Evanoff** - October 31, 2024 at 08:52 AM

VJ

*“ To the Kaatz Family, we all loved Nancilee! Precious lady, friend, and neighbor. May His love surround you all in the days ahead, and His amazing Grace be with you all in the coming days as well. Mo, Keith, Annette, Venita, David and Benjamin*

**Venita Justice** - October 29, 2024 at 07:28 PM



*Thank you Venita. Your entire family is special to us.*

**Lycia Evanoff** - October 31, 2024 at 08:53 AM

HH

*“ Our love and condolences. HeartsWay Hospice staff.*



**HeartsWay Hospice** - October 29, 2024 at 06:12 PM



*Thank you so much. You all have been such a blessing to us.*

**Lycia Evanoff** - October 31, 2024 at 08:54 AM