



Mary Kyle Underwood Ritchey

December 13, 2014

Mary Kyle Ritchey, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, mentor and friend, passed away peacefully on December 13, 2014 in Mason, Texas at the age of 68. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Pearl Underwood and by her sister, Carol Henry. She is survived by her husband, Mike Ritchey DVM, daughters Jennifer Wofford and husband Kurt, Jo Lynn Joyce DVM and husband Wade Everitt, Shannon Dezell and husband Sean and by her brother, John Underwood and wife Gail. She is also survived by her much loved grandchildren, Otto and Ivan Wofford, Haley, Hannah, Heather and Hudson Dezell, and niece Sue Heinrich and several nieces and nephews.

Mary graduated in 1964 from Stephen F. Austin High School in Houston, Texas where she held leadership positions in the activities in which she was involved. She then attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and graduated in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in English and a secondary teaching certification. While at Southwestern, Mary was a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and held many offices in that organization, including that of president.

After moving to Huntsville, Texas, Mary chose to continue her education, and while caring for her young family, she attained a Masters degree in Counseling from Sam Houston State University where she later became Assistant Dean of Students. She touched many young lives during her career, always lending

encouragement and wisdom. No matter what her job responsibilities entailed, she supported her own children in all of their activities and encouraged them to be the best they could be. Her enthusiasm and infectious smile was evident in many organizations in Huntsville including the founding of the Walker County Aggie Mom's Club that is still going strong today.

Upon Mike's retirement in 2011, Mary & Mike moved to Mason County and built their home on top of the hill on Miracle Ranch. They spent many sunrises & sunsets together on their back porch enjoying the view and watching their beloved Sadie Mae and Little Man (Dogs), Zuper (Mary's Rescue Horse), B.C. (Barn Cat), as well as many species of wildlife .

Mary was truly a lovely and loving person whose strong faith sustained her through many health issues. She loved life and was happiest when she could be with her family (especially her grandchildren), and previously mentioned pets. Her many friends benefited greatly from her wise words and from her great sense of humor. She will be missed, and we all look forward to seeing her again in a better place.

A Memorial service will be held in Mason at the River of Life Church on Monday 12/22/14 at 2pm. Address is 217 East College Avenue. Mason Texas, 76856

In lieu of flowers, Mary's requests were:

L.O.P.E. Organization, 1550 Deerefield Road, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.
L.O.P.E. (Lonestar outreach to place ex-racers) is a charity devoted to helping ex-racehorses find loving homes after their racing days are over. Mary adopted her cherished horse Zuper from L.O.P.E. He was her faithful companion and returned her love with all his heart. Countless hours of joy were added to Mary's life in the toughest of times due to Zuper and this

organization!

Hill Country Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 835, Fredricksburg, Texas 78624.
These folks did a super job!

Our entire family sends a heartfelt thanks to all for your concerns, support, love and prayers during this entire journey.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, due to current weather situation.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Kyle Underwood Ritchey*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Mary was a GRAND LADY! She will be missed by many. Our prayers are with you and your family.
David and Darlene Burris*

Darlene Burris - February 08, 2015 at 04:06 PM



“ *Mike, We are so sorry about Mary's passing. We cannot come to the Celebration of Life tomorrow afternoon due to a previous commitment that I have. I have had you on my mind for over a year and will continue to lift you up.
Love you, Kay Cox McWhorter*

Kay McWhorter - February 07, 2015 at 03:02 PM



“ *Dear Mike and family, just now hearing of Mary's passing. So sorry to hear the news. Our prayers are with you and the girls. The Loves-David & Lisa*

Lisa Love - January 13, 2015 at 07:13 PM

CS

“ Doc, we are just learning of Mary's passing. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. It was a long hard journey for her but may she now rest in peace and may God continue to give you courage and strength during this time of your loss. Friends,
Doug & Charley Sanders

Charlotte Sanders - January 06, 2015 at 12:31 PM

GC

“ Dr. Ritchey - I was so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. I'm glad you had some good times together at your dream house in Mason. I've followed L.O.P.E. and Zuper on Facebook for a long time - I knew he had been adopted out, but had no idea it was to Mary! Take care.

Gaye Clements - January 02, 2015 at 01:57 PM

TW

“ So sorry to hear of Mary's passing. We knew each other in college as members of ADPi. She was a pledge sister, fun to be with, so smart, and a leader in our group. Fond memories, and may you and your family find comfort at this time. Shalom,

Terry Ann Webb - December 20, 2014 at 09:05 AM

PC

“ Mike, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We will always be thankful for your wonderful friendship and daily calls to Leon when he was ill. Please know we are thinking of you. Mary was very special.

Peggy, Kathy and David Cole

Peggy Cole - December 19, 2014 at 10:56 PM

LP

“ *Mike, Jennifer, and Jolynn*
We are sorry for your loss! Mary was a fighter and was so blessed to have such a wonderful family by her side.
Much love to you all!

Andrew and LeeAnn Porter

LeeAnn Porter - December 19, 2014 at 01:29 PM

SR

“ *Dr. Ritchey and family,*
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with yall.
She was definitely an incredible, caring woman and will be missed greatly.

Stephanie Ward Rogers - December 17, 2014 at 10:58 PM

MW

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. She was a sweet lady. We are praying for you.*

Melliceny Wiley - December 17, 2014 at 02:43 PM

AH

“ *Mike, Roger and I are so sorry for your loss. We know how special Mary was to you. We pray you will be strong through this very difficult time.*

Roger and Anna Bell Harvey

Anna Bell Harvey - December 17, 2014 at 02:15 PM

WP

“ *Caring thoughts sent to the Ritchey family.*

Wayne and Vicki Prentice - December 17, 2014 at 12:54 PM

DB

“ Dr. Ritchey and family, Our love and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Mrs. Ritchey is a very special lady and Damon and I are Blessed to have known her. Her smile and joyful spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved her. Thank you for sharing your jewel with our family! With much love, Damon, Amanda, Lillie and Eli

Damon and Amanda Burris - December 17, 2014 at 08:15 AM

MC

“ We are just heartbroken about Mary. She was such a ray of sunshine. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Marilyn Chumbley - December 16, 2014 at 10:38 PM

JM

“ My condolences to the Ritchey families. I'm sorry to hear about the loss of such a dear loved one. Some Bible scriptures that have helped me during times of loss include Isaiah 26:19 and Psalm 37:29 which states "Your dead ones will live...They will rise up." And the Bible also says: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it." Therefore the Bible promises that there will be a time when we may be reunited with our loved ones lost in death by means of an earthly resurrection. This is further confirmed by John 5:28,29 which says "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." This is possible thanks to Jesus Christ's ransom sacrifice. Thus we have a genuine hope of everlasting life in a world without wickedness or suffering. I hope these scriptures will be of some comfort to you. For more encouraging thoughts on this subject, please visit www.jw.org

Janice Marsalis - December 16, 2014 at 09:18 PM

NJ

“ Dr. Mike, so very sorry for your loss. Years ago you were out vet. when we lived in Huntsville. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. I was the SHSU Alumni Director from 1977**1992. Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones, formerly of Huntsville, now of Lovelady.

Norma Dell Jones - December 16, 2014 at 07:23 PM

JH

“ Mike, Dana and I are keeping you in our prayers. We will be thinking of you during this difficult time. So glad I knew your remarkable Mary.
Jean and Dana

Jean Holly - December 16, 2014 at 04:27 PM

VE

“ Dr. Ritchey and family. I am so sorry for your loss of your loved one. David and I are thinking and praying for you at this time of great loss.. May God Bless you!. Vicki, David, and the cats

Vicki Pledger Easley - December 16, 2014 at 09:26 AM

TF

“ Jennifer, Kurt, Otto, and Ivan, I am so sorry to hear of this sad loss in your family. Please know that a multitude of people care about you and will lift you up in their prayers. My prayers will be among that multitude. May this outpouring of love provide some peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Theresa Fallwell - December 15, 2014 at 08:05 PM

SH

“ Uncle Mike, Jennifer and JoLynn
Aunt Mary was always my coolest Aunt from Texas, I always looked forward to our visits. She will be greatly missed. My heart, my prayers go out to you and our family

Steve Henry - December 15, 2014 at 07:26 PM

SH

“ Uncle Mike and Family,

A wonderful tribute to a beautiful woman. I can surely attest to having benefited greatly from her wise words and from her great sense of humor. Her laughter was contagious!

She fought harder than anyone I have known with Mike and her family by her side. She lives on through all of you.

Please know my thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy are with you all.

Sue Heinrich - December 15, 2014 at 06:31 PM

JU

“ Mike and family, Thank you for the care and love you gave Mary. I will always remember her as the little sister that I baby sat a lot and was always hanging around. We were far apart for many years but the love was always there.

John and Gail Underwood - December 15, 2014 at 06:02 PM

TN

“ Shannon - We are thinking of you, your dad and sisters during this difficult time. Love to all of you during the holiday season! Mark, Trina, Ashley and Payge Nail

Trina Nail - December 15, 2014 at 01:29 PM

EA

“ *Dr. Ritchey & Family sending hugs and prayers to you. She fought a good fight.*

Edd & Terry Artherholt - December 15, 2014 at 01:08 PM

BP

“ *Mike, I think I would have loved knowing your Mary. I am so sorry for your loss of such a special loved one. I will be thinking of you.*
Beth

Beth Price - December 15, 2014 at 12:44 PM