



Monte Sue Knight

October 22, 1946 - April 3, 2026

Monte Knight

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Monte Knight passed away on April 3, 2026. After several difficult years marked by multiple illnesses, her body finally grew tired. Even so, Monte never lost her faith in God, which carried her through life and remained steady until the end. She was a long time and devoted member of the First United Methodist Church in Huntsville.

Monte was born on October 22, 1946, in Pasadena, Texas, to Harrel and Gatsy Leonard, who preceded her in death. She attended Deer Park High School, graduating in 1964, where she lived fully—she was a twirler, part of the drill team, and played basketball. Her team went to state, and she never forgot it.

While working at TDCJ ID, Monte met Bob Knight. They married in 1976 and shared 42 years of marriage before Bob's passing in 2019. Their life together wasn't always easy, but it was rooted in love, loyalty, and commitment. Monte is survived by her daughters, Tracy (Dave) Elgersma and Jaime (Brian) VanDelist; her grandchildren, Connor and Morgan Elgersma, who brought her great joy; her sister, Wanette (Jimmy) Meekins; and many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

Monte knew hard work. While raising her oldest daughter as a single mother, she worked three jobs—days as a secretary at Brown & Root in Houston, nights and Saturdays waitressing at Clark's Diner in New Waverly, and

Sunday mornings caring for children in the nursery at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville. She later earned an associate's degree from Sam Houston State University, majoring in English, a decision that benefitted her daughters for years, whether they appreciated their grammar being corrected at the time or not.

She spent 31 years at TDCJ ID before retiring in 2000, working in the Classifications Division and managing multi-million dollar budgets. There, she built deep friendships that lasted a lifetime and took great pride in the work she did.

To know Monte was to laugh with her. She had a contagious laugh, a beautiful smile, and a wonderful sharp sense of humor. She was an excellent cook and baker—with one legendary exception: the Thanksgiving when the angel biscuits didn't rise, giving the family "hockey pucks." They still tasted good, though, and became part of family lore. She was a lifelong Sonic fan and ordered the same thing every time: a Route 44 Diet Coke with lime, just so there's no confusion. She was endlessly talented and creative - crocheting, painting, sewing, and quilting. She made countless items for those she loved, including multiple prom dresses for her daughters. Monte was a long-time member of the Tall Pines Quilt Guild, and many of her quilts will be on display during visitation and services.

Monte had many hidden talents. She could roller skate well into her 40s, loved to sing and dance, and once declared that smoking wasn't for her after burning a hole in her favorite skirt. (Yes, Mom—we're telling all your business, and you can't stop us.) If she ever shared a secret with you, you were warned to keep it—or she would call you a liar. Monte loved music. Her tastes leaned toward Elvis, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson and Alison Kraus - country, gospel, and bluegrass. If it could be played loud, sung along to, or stirred up a memory, she was all in. Monte also loved sports and watching them was serious business. Football came first—high school (she cheered for whatever team her nephews happened to be coaching), college (same rule applied), and the NFL (Go Cowboys!). She also followed March Madness, confidently picking

winner based on jersey colors and mascots, unless, of course, a Texas team was involved. She loved watching the National Finals Rodeo, too—though she never quite managed to watch the bull riding without cringing.

Monte loved deeply, laughed freely, worked hard, and held fast to her faith. She will be missed beyond words and remembered always.

Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by services at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, TX, with refreshments immediately afterward. Please join us—and bring your “Monte” stories to share. She wouldn’t want this to be sad; she’d want us to laugh, smile and tell stories – unless she told you to “keep it a secret”!

As Monte was a big support of education, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Tall Pines Quilt Guild Scholarship Fund, memo “Scholarship Fund – Monte Knight.” Donations may be sent via Venmo @TPQGtreasurer (last four digits 4148) or via PayPal at Tall Pines Quilt Guild.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 10:00 AM (CT)


Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Memorial Service

APR 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Tribute Wall

 Lisa
Burns-
Valdez

“ *Im so very sorry that I just heard about this. Monte hired me when I worked for Classification and Records as a file clerk in the Assistant Directors Office. She was such a very sweet lady that taught me so very much . Im so very sorry for your loss.*

Lisa Burns-Valdez - May 08 at 02:42 PM

BF

“ *Benita Nixon Atkins & family(Robert/dad) purchased the Angel's Embrace Bouquet for the family of Monte Sue Knight.*



Benita Nixon Atkins & family(Robert/dad) - April 10 at 03:32 PM

BS

“ *Beverly Stewart lit a candle in memory of Monte Sue Knight*



Beverly Stewart - April 10 at 09:52 AM

CS

“ *Charles And Elaine Smith lit a candle in memory of Monte Sue Knight*



Charles and Elaine Smith - April 10 at 01:32 AM

PT

“ Peggy Thompson purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Monte Sue Knight.



Peggy Thompson - April 08 at 12:40 PM

DF

“ Monte was 6 years older than me. One summer when she was in high school I spent a week with her family. She was such a sweet cousin. I remember that was such a good week in my life. She had a great personality and even though she was so much older than me, she took me under her wing and made me feel like "one of the girls". Rest easy cousin. May God comfort your family. Debra Fischer

Debra L Fischer - April 08 at 10:50 AM

JM

“ Tracy, please accept my sincere condolences. I wish you peace and comfort during this difficult time. Psalm 46:1.



Jonathan Mandujano - April 08 at 09:49 AM

AN

“ Please accept my sincere condolences during this difficult time. Wishing you all strength and peace.



Adrian Nuno - April 08 at 09:04 AM

CN

“ Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Monte Sue Knight



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - April 08 at 08:50 AM

LD

“ To Tracy and family, so sorry to read that your mother has passed. I still remember the sleepovers at your house and how she would make homemade cinnamon rolls for us. She made the sleepovers so fun! She even took me on the softball team and tried to coach me into a better player. Prayers for your family at this time.
Love, Lisa Kernek Daskiewich

Lisa Daskiewich - April 07 at 05:26 PM

TE

Thank you Lisa - her passing was not unexpected, but it was sudden. Thank you for the reminder about the homemade cinnamon rolls - they were delicious. Now, I need to find her recipe....lol. Hope you and your family are doing well.

Tracy Elgersma - April 07 at 07:13 PM

VP

“ I met Monte while working in Classification and Records in 1980. She was always smiling and a joy to be around. It made working there so much better with Monte around the office. She was a special lady and will be sorely missed

Vicki Pledger - April 07 at 04:27 PM

TE

Hi Vicki - Not sure where my comment went, but thank you for reaching out. We are missing her already. Back in 1980, my mother had a newborn (Jaime) and I was in junior high. And that "special lady" made me eat my squash....yuck! LOL Hope to see you Saturday.

Tracy Elgersma - April 07 at 07:27 PM

MF

“ *Lifting up the family and friends of Monte Knight for comfort and healing from our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Marvin Hyvl & Family - April 07 at 12:07 PM

TE

Thank you so much!

Tracy Elgersma - April 07 at 07:28 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Monte Sue Knight.*



April 07 at 11:59 AM

EC

“ Monte Sue was such a treasure to be called family. Beautiful on the inside and outside and so genuine.

You are thought of so very often even though distance kept us from visiting.

Our love and deepest condolences to Jamie and Tracy and all of the family.



Earl and Sherry Carter - April 06 at 10:13 PM

TE

Thank you both so much! Jaime and I are hanging in there. Looking forward to seeing you this weekend.

Tracy Elgersma - April 07 at 07:14 PM

DB

“ As a young, new employee in the Admin Bldg @ TDC in 1979 Monte was the first to help me! I never forgot her kindness because it was the start of our friendship - esp when I started dating, then married, one of "her boys".

Dena Byrd - April 06 at 07:10 PM



To Tracy and family, so sorry to read that your mother has passed. I still remember the sleepovers at your house and how she would make homemade cinnamon rolls for us. She made the sleepovers so fun! She even took me on the softball team and tried to coach me into a better player. Prayers for your family at this time.
Love, Lisa Kernek Daskiewich

Lisa Daskiewich - April 07 at 05:16 PM

TE

Hi Dena. Thank you so much for reaching out. In 1979, Jaime was born and I was no longer the "star of the show" (lol) - those were the days!

Tracy Elgersma - April 07 at 07:20 PM

CA

With Monte around there was never a dull moment! Tracy and Jamie she loved y'all with her whole heart!

Cathy - April 07 at 09:13 PM

CS

My wife Elaine and I offer sincere condolences to the family of Monte Knight. Monte served as my Budget Officer in the TDCJ-ID Classification Division. She was very skilled and an effective advocate for the employees therein. Together we cheerfully teamed to plead our case. With Monte's personality and a dose of humor we usually were successful.

Charles Smith - April 10 at 01:24 AM

SW

Sincere condolences to the family. I worked in the Treatment Division/TDC with Monte in the 1970's. She was always kind, helpful, and cheerful. I have fond memories of her. God bless you all. Sarah Wiley

Sarah Wiley - April 11 at 11:02 AM