



Catherine Louise O'Neal

December 12, 1949 - January 11, 2017

Catherine Louise O'Neal (67), passed away at 12:37 p.m. on January 11, 2017 at home after battling Stage 4 small cell carcinoma (lung cancer). She was born on December 12, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois to Harry "AC" Hunter and Ann Rose (Molinaro) Hunter. She was preceded in death by both her parents, her brother, Robert Hunter, and her sister, Theresa (Hunter) Smolka.

Catherine enjoyed crafting, knitting and sewing. She was dubbed the "Queen of Pinterest", creating crafting ideas before Pinterest was even a fleeting thought in it's creator's head. Among other things, she enjoyed making hats for the babies being born at Navarro Regional Hospital. She was an amazing homemaker, being able to create wonderful dishes and keep the household running smoothly. Catherine enjoyed politics and was very independent in her thoughts. She never stopped learning; watching documentaries, reading and researching things instead of relying on others for her information. She was an extremely intelligent person and enjoyed conversing with others on her favorite topics.

She leaves behind her loving husband of almost 50 years, Kermit Lee O'Neal (70), her daughter, Angela Leah O'Neal (42), her son, Robert Allen O'Neal (45), her daughter-in-law, Yolanda Rivera O'Neal (53), her granddaughter, Kayla Rose O'Neal (18), her grandson, Aaron Rayne O'Neal (18), her granddaughter, Andrea Jean (O'Neal) Isley (37), her grandson, Jacob Clay

O'Neal (15), her granddaughter, Scarlett Rivera O'Neal (11), her great-grandson, Asher Rausch (17), as well as numerous other family members and friends.

Visitation will be held Sunday, Jan. 15th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, 450 East Main Street, Fairfield, Texas 75840. In lieu of flowers, we request that a donation be made in Catherine's honor to Providence Hospice in Mexia, Texas (the wonderful hospice that cared for her in her final days) or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (her favorite charity).

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **15**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Fairfield
450 East Main Street
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-9217
info@griffin-rougton.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Catherine Louise O'Neal*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Speech by Rose Leah O'Neal:*

My grandmother was the strongest person I will ever know.

She had a hard childhood, but she believed that was what made her such a strong person. She never regretted her life growing up because she became a better person because of it. However hard her life was, she understood that it was what needed to happen for her to be who she was.

At one point, when I was very young, I told her she wasn't my parent during an argument and the hurt I saw in her eyes was one that I grew to regret and that was the moment that I knew she was just as much of a mother to me as my own mother.

I wouldn't be who I am without my her. She was the one who taught me to stand by what I believe in, no matter how many people disagree with me. Even when she disagreed with me, she would sit with me and listen to what I had to say so she could understand, and I would do the same with her. I don't think I could have ever learned as much from anyone else as I could with her. It was a ritual for our family to just sit at the kitchen table for HOURS and just talk. I discovered what I believed in during those talks and I am so grateful for them. I am so grateful for her.

I don't think I knew or will ever know a smarter person than my grandmother. That might sound like kissing up, but I assure you I mean every word. The reason is that she never wanted to stop learning and that's something I feel a lot of people struggle with. Heck, she was watching documentary's up until a few weeks before she passed. She just wanted to know more and more because she knew there was always something new to learn and it was worth learning until the very end. I never met someone who wanted to understand so much.

My grandmother taught me so much about love. She was with my

grandfather for over 50 years, 49 and a half married to him. They love each other so much and I can't possibly imagine how amazing it'll be when I find someone who I can share my whole life with like they did with each other.

I know losing my grandmother is very hard on my grandfather but she is here with us all; I know that. She wants us to stand tall and just love each other with all of our hearts. That's what's going to get us through this.

My grandmother was so loving... so amazing. Even when you were arguing with her, you knew how much she cared and that love for you would never leave her. It took me a while to see my worth in this world and if it wasn't for my grandma, I don't think I would have ever seen it. I hope to be as strong as she was someday.

I don't know how to end this. I don't know how because I could go on for hours, telling you things about this amazing woman. I have stories for a lifetime. Happy, sad, weird, you name it... I have a story about her. And, to be honest, I don't want to end this because I'm not ready for goodbye. I never will be. So, even though today will end and we will all go home, I want everyone here to know that she's not gone because I believe she is immortal, as long as we keep talking, as long as we keep telling stories.

Angela O'Neal - January 15, 2017 at 09:09 PM



“ *Speech by Aaron Rayne O’Neal:*

I want to cry. But I know that when I do it would be impossible to understand me. I need to be comprehensive.

We see death and tragedy all the time in media, movies, and games. I play games that have that all the time. So, in personal experience death felt different. I never felt the loss of someone so close before. Because we see it all the time and can just rewatch, replay, and redo everything I’ve mentioned; it didn’t show the true face of death. And a movie can never truly show that. What it is really like. How I’m never going to see her face to face again. How I’m never going to hear her say “I love you”. How every day I think about her but can never hold her hand again.

I’m sure most if not all of you have seen Deaths face before now. How do you feel every day without that person you shared your life with? Personally, I have never been so close to someone and then.... This. What once was blissful ignorance has now become a searing cavity held in my heart.

She was a wonderful woman with the best smile and the greatest and most loyal friend I can think of, grandpa. I can only hope that one day I’ll find someone like she did. I hope they’ll be as great as she was. She was kind, gentle, sincere with every heartfelt “I love you”.

She was strong. She fought her diseases and in the end, even after she knew it was all over, she stood strong. When most would have given in she stayed.

So what makes a person strong? I suppose it was bravery. Yes she was scared, anyone would be. But beyond the fear she was practically a superwoman. The day I cried when I learned of her cancer, she stood over me...me! When she should’ve been the one who was crying. I never saw her cry, not to my knowledge. I feel as

if she was concerned more about us than herself. Doesn't that make her a hero, a superwoman? I feel that if my words were to get to her somehow. That there is only one thing she would really care to hear ... from all of us to you Grandma "We love you!" "I love you."

Angela O'Neal - January 15, 2017 at 09:08 PM

MA

“ *Marilyn Aleman lit a candle in memory of Catherine Louise O'Neal*



Marilyn Aleman - January 14, 2017 at 07:39 PM

MH

“ *The first day I met Cathy was the first day of kindergarten for our sons Rob & Bob.. All the other kids were screaming, crying and holding on to their moms for dear life. Then there's our two sons ,walking into the school, not even saying goodbye or turning around to wave.*

Cathy and I looked at each other perplexed and laughed. That was the beginning of our friendship that lasted 40 years. I will miss her tremendously . Lots of love to all the family especially Kermit Rob and Angie. RIP Cathy.

Mary Ann Hargadon - January 14, 2017 at 04:50 PM

MA

“ I first met Cathy first day of kindergarten for our sons. All the other kids waiting were screaming, crying and holding on to their moms. On the other hand both of our sons walked away from us into the school. They didn't even say goodbye or wave to us. Cathy and I just looked at each other perplexed and laughed. That was the start of our friendship . We were still close friends 40 years later. I will miss her tremendously . Love her.

Mary Ann - January 14, 2017 at 02:49 PM

AP

“ Angela Patten-Marquez lit a candle in memory of Catherine Louise O'Neal



Angela Patten-Marquez - January 13, 2017 at 12:23 AM

VH

“ May the love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. We offer our most sincere condolences for your loss.



In Deepest Sympathy,

The Providence Hospice Team in Mexia

Valerie Henson - January 12, 2017 at 04:20 PM

BB

“ I remember one summer she asked me to give her a very short hair cut so I did I had only been in school for about 6 months but she trusted me and I love her for that You will be so missed and you are loved and always be loved
you are seated at the right side of Jesus Christ.....

Bruce Berry - January 12, 2017 at 03:31 PM



“ Asher Rausch was added to the Family Tree.

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:38 AM



“ Greg Isley was added to the Family Tree.

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:38 AM



“ Andrea Jean (o'neal) isley was added to the Family Tree.

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:38 AM



“ Kayla Rose O'neal was added to the Family Tree.

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:37 AM



“ Aaron Rayne O'neal was added to the Family Tree.

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:36 AM



“ *Scarlett Rivera O'neal was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:36 AM



“ *Jacob Clay O'neal was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:35 AM



“ *Yolanda Rivera O'neal was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:34 AM



“ *Angela Leah O'neal was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:34 AM



“ *Robert Allen O'neal was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:33 AM



“ *Theresa Smolka was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:32 AM



“ *Robert Hunter was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:32 AM



“ *Kermit Lee O'neal was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:31 AM



“ *Ann Rose Hunter was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:31 AM



“ *Harry Hunter was added to the Family Tree.*

Angela O'Neal - January 12, 2017 at 08:30 AM