



Gwendolyn Thornton Rabalais

May 24, 1947 - January 9, 2019

Gwendolyn “Gwen” Thornton Rabalais entered eternal sleep on January 9, 2019, following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer’s. Family members were at her side at the time of her death. Born in Alexandria on May 24th, 1947, Gwen was a lifelong resident on Alexandria’s Garden District.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Samuel “Bert” Thornton and Eloise Gandy Thornton and her sister Patricia Bowman. Those left to cherish her memory are her husband of 45 years, Keith J. Rabalais, daughters Elizabeth Eileen Rabalais, Susanna R. Rowlett, and Alison R. Hedges and husband Mike, grandchildren Richard Thornton Rowlett, Joshua Rowlett, Hayden Hedges and Hayley Hedges, her sister Lillie Dell Ribaldo, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Like her mother and her daughters, Gwen was a graduate of Bolton High School. As an exchange student she attended a semester of high school in Porta Vallarta, Mexico. She attended Brenau Women’s College in Gainesville Georgia and later earned her BA for University of Northwest Louisiana in Natchitoches.

Keith & Gwen met while attending a real estate seminar during their employment at Stephen’s Agency of Alexandria. Gwen was later employed by the Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning agency for several years before being employed by Double A Travel Agency of Alexandria.

She loved reading, traveling, her home, her pets, but mostly she adored her family. She had an amazing sense of humor and loved helping people, friend or stranger, it didn’t matter. She also loved adventure; she experienced skydiving, hang gliding, competitive sailing and white water canoeing.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the amazing staff and management of Southern Medical Staffing, Lagniappe Home Health and Heart of Hospice. These agencies provided unbelievable care and compassion for Gwen during her illness.

The family requests that memorials be made to The Alzheimer’s Association Louisiana Chapter, 910 Pierremont Road, Suite 410, Shreveport, LA 71106 or Friends of The Alexandria Zoo (FOTAZ), 3016 Masonic Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301

Visitation for family and friends will be held at Kramer Funeral Home on Sunday, January 13, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Comments



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gwendolyn Thornton Rabalais.



January 12, 2019 at 09:25 AM



“ Grew up with Dell and Gwen and spent lots of time with these sweet friends. I'm sending prayers for your families for peace and comfort.

Ginny Rae Thomas Cranford - January 10, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Thank you so much.
I will be sure to show this to Dell.
-Eileen Rabalais

Eileen Rabalais - January 17, 2019 at 02:07 PM



“ I remember like it was yesterday. My parents were at the end of their rope with me but I was too young to be on my own. Whatever transpired behind the scenes I'll never know but shortly after I arrived with suitcase in hand to be a temporary member of the Rabalais family. Mama Gwen treated me like one of her own, from advice to chores to unconditional love. I'd visit her at the Travel Agency as I married and had kids for more of that advice. I will forever treasure the time I had with my surrogate mom and am thankful for a family who welcomed me with open arms. I know this has been a long road for you all and I've watched, admiringly, as your lives have taken a backseat to caring for her. Mr. Keith, I'm so very sorry for your loss and I thank you for being so good to me. Alison, I enjoyed sharing a room with you for a little while, even the night I came home to find my bed stripped for the wash and I thought it meant I had to leave! Eileen, I'm in awe of all of you've done for your mom and I pray that you have a peace and a renewed sense of purpose even in the midst of your grief. Susanna, I've thought about you a lot since you called this morning. We sure put our moms through a lot but in the end, I know we made them proud. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jeanni Thrasher - January 09, 2019 at 11:49 PM



“ Thank you, Jeanni. She was an amazing woman. Her love and devotion for her family and those she held close to her heart Will live in us forever.

Eileen Rabalais - January 17, 2019 at 03:20 PM