



Mrs. Marilyn Kotzebue

July 28, 1946 - April 30, 2020

Marilyn Gail Kotzebue, age 73, left this life to be with our Lord Jesus Christ on Thursday, April 30, 2020. She had endured an extended illness and passed peacefully at home under hospice care in Albertville, Alabama.

A private graveside service will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at Marshall Memorial Garden in Albertville, Alabama.

Marilyn was born in Oildale, California on July 28, 1946, and grew up in Orange County, California. She graduated from Westminster High School in 1964, and moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1970. She married Bill Kotzebue in 1997. Marilyn was a faithful servant of God and was a long time member of Trinity Church in San Antonio.

She is survived by her daughter, Melanie McClendon (Kenneth) of Albertville; step-daughters, Elizabeth Hagan and Kim Ahlstrom; step-granddaughter, Courtney Rhoden, and her loving church family and friends.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, Ewell Foster "Bo" Lisman and Lucille Elliot

Lisman Clarke; her brother, James Lisman; her step-grandson, Jason McClendon, and her husband Bill Kotzebue.

Special thanks go to Kindred Hospice of Rainbow City, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made to 24/7 Church (formerly Trinity Church) at 5415 North Loop 1604 E, San Antonio, Texas 78247 or www.my247church.org or a donation to the ALS Society at www.ALSA.org

Cemetery Details

Marshall Memorial Gardens

3364 Alabama Highway 205
Albertville, AL 35950

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Melanie you are continually in my thoughts and prayers...Love Betty West*

Betty West - June 14, 2020 at 05:20 PM

SM

“ *Marilyn was a sweet, beautiful person with an infectious smile and she had God's light shining right thru her eyes when you held her gaze. I met Marilyn thru her daughter, Melanie McClendon. Melanie is my sister-in-law but she is like a sister to me. To all of Marilyn's friends: please be comforted in the knowledge that Marilyn was so very well taken care of. Melanie worked tirelessly decorating Marilyn's bedroom and the house with as many of Marilyn's personal items as possible and in just the way Marilyn wanted it decorated, so that she would hopefully feel at home. And all along, she was buying every possible item she could think of to make her Mom as comfortable as possible as her health declined at a rapid rate. All the while, Melanie was still caring for her husband, Kenneth, who also has ALS. I know it isn't appropriate to ask God 'why'. But that doesn't stop this human from wanting to ask God, 'How could you possibly place this double ALS responsibility of a spouse AND a parent on this one person'? I think God might reply 'Because no one else could handle it'. I can certainly say that I doubt anyone else could handle it with the love, integrity, dignity and grace that Melanie has. Not only does she take care of our family but she takes care of her neighbors too. After reading all of Marilyn's tributes from her friends, I see that Melanie inherited her Mother's wonderful caring ways and her loving heart.*

Sherry McClendon - May 06, 2020 at 05:28 PM

MB

*From Mary Lynne-I am a close friend of Marilyn's.
What a beautiful tribute to our
Marilyn and dear Melanie. Sometimes we do wonder about how things
turn out.*

*It helps me to remember
that our genes became broken
as well as everything else in that original cataclysmic separation from
God in the garden. Jesus heals His own always but for reasons only
God knows Marilyn had to wait until she left this life. He is
completely good and trustworthy. She is now in her healthy beautiful
spiritual body and unimaginably happy! ❤️*

Mary Lynne Barrow - May 08, 2020 at 12:27 PM

MM

“Wonderful pic of Bill and Marilyn, thanks Liz for sending that. She
always looked great in black and white. Love the polka dots. They
are a handsome couple.



Melanie McClendon - May 06, 2020 at 12:14 PM

MW

Love!

Marilyn Welch - May 07, 2020 at 05:12 PM

MM

“Lovely blue and white, her favorite color combination.



Melanie McClendon - May 06, 2020 at 10:16 AM

MW

Beautiful flowers!! ❤️

Marilyn Welch - May 07, 2020 at 05:14 PM

MB

Good to know her colors.

Mary Lynne Barrow - May 08, 2020 at 12:31 PM

KA

“ *Marilyn will be missed by many. She brought so much joy and happiness to my dad and our family for 15 years. She was a kind, loving, and giving person. She was also a fantastic baker. I always looked forward to mine and my dad's birthdays when she would make us both a German chocolate cake. Anything she made was delicious. I know you are with daddy and Cache now. Tell them hello from us until we meet again.*

Kimmie and John Ahlstrom

Kim Ahlstrom - May 05, 2020 at 09:19 PM

EH

Thomas and I were just talking last night about how she made a sweet potato casserole for Thanksgiving one year at Barby's and how I couldn't get enough of it. ❤️

Elizabeth Hagan - May 06, 2020 at 11:42 AM

MM

She used to make a carrot cake that was so good. She grated all those carrots and made cream cheese icing with black walnuts...yum

Melanie McClendon - May 06, 2020 at 11:59 AM

P7

“ *Pastor Josh and Jena Pantuso & Trinity(24 7)Church purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Marilyn Kotzebue.*



Pastor Josh and Jena Pantuso & Trinity(24 7)Church - May 05, 2020 at 06:08 PM

JP

“ *We are so grateful to have known Marilyn. What a beautiful woman inside and out. She had the love and peace of God radiate from her. Her smile lit up the room. She was generous with her time, talent, and treasures. She left such a great legacy here on this earth. Her Trinity Church family will truly miss her. Pastors Josh and Jena Pantuso*

Jena Pantuso - May 05, 2020 at 05:57 PM

MW

“ Praying for you, Melanie, and your family during this time. Praying for the peace and comfort of our Lord to surround all of you this day as you gather together to celebrate the life of your mom.

Marilyn was such a precious friend to Mikel and me for so many years. She loved life with such passion! Because of her love of Jesus, she delighted in studying His Word -

She was always seeking to walk closer to the Lord.

She also loved her family and friends with passion--always praying for them, always looking for ways to serve the needs of others! She also loved to decorate--to make things look beautiful. She shared that in our home- especially at Christmas when we would do Christmas Teas for my neighbors.

She loved hymns and songs of praise to her Lord. One of her favorite hymns was

Be Thou My Vision -

*"Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night.
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light."*

We know that one day we will see her when we meet again in Heaven.

Marilyn Welch - May 05, 2020 at 11:44 AM

YE

And I lift you up Melanie how did you were going through the struggles of accepting your mothers passage to heaven. You did a fantastic job for your mother. You did over and beyond what most children would do and love and care. Relax and the fact she adored you and she knew that you adored her.

A special memory I have is as you came to pick up Marilyn to take her back to your home, she and I had some private time and she told me I was remarkable. She As she was acknowledging her bodies failing, she reached out to me. It was very hard for me to understand how I could be so special to her as she was going through so much. That was your mother. That was her gift.

As you go through these next months and years please know how proud of you she is . I am proud of you too. You are loved and adored. Just like your mom. And she awaits us in heaven. Amen for that.

yvette erwin - May 05, 2020 at 01:24 PM

YE

Corrections to the first line:

I lift you up now as you are are going through the struggles of burying your mother.

yvette erwin - May 05, 2020 at 01:27 PM

RF

I remember when I first met your mom, Melanie. She was in a marriage class with my daughter and soon to be husband. She was preparing to marry Bill. I always loved how she wanted to pray for other people who were hurting or were sick after she had gone through cancer herself. She promised me she would pray for me every day And I know that she did. When she showed me her pillow she knelt on by her bed to pray I thought of all the people she had prayed for as she knelt on that pillow. Your mother's smile was beautiful, warm and would light up a room wherever she went. Your mom was a faithful friend and she loved celebrating special times in other peoples lives. God truly bless the work of her hands as she served others and served Jesus. We loved singing hymns together in the car when she would pick me up to take me places knowing I could no longer drive because of my eyesight. Lots of wonderful memories we shared on women's retreats and prayer groups and Sunday school class and women's game nights. Thank you for taking such good care of your mom but especially making her feel so loved. May God bless you and comfort you and give you strength now and in the days ahead.
Roger and Carolyn Freeman

Roger and Carolyn Freeman - May 05, 2020 at 09:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marilyn Kotzebue.*



May 05, 2020 at 08:42 AM

MB

“ Thank you Melanie for the wonderful pictures and tribute to your beloved mother, Marilyn. She is my fun friend. When I was lonely and asked her to be my friend she happily agreed even though she had many others. We went to Christ centered places and some just fun ones. We drank tea and shared. Lucy was always wiggling close by. She encouraged me by her Bible study discipline to follow suit. The Holy Spirit spoke to her and through her. I miss her but God and she are having a unimaginably radiant time along with the many who loved Jesus in this life. Congratulations Marilyn. You finished your race strong! ❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏

Mary Lynne Barrow - May 05, 2020 at 01:55 AM

“ Why I Love My Mother

- *She is beautiful. She had a beauty that radiated from inside and shined on the outside.*

Even if she had a bad day, she looked good. She was always put together with such

care and she always had a beautiful smile and a sweet disposition.

- *She is thoughtful. I learned to be this way from her and I thank her for that. It feels*

good to think of others. She taught me to be helpful and loving and interested in the well

being of everybody. I learned to do special things for the ones that I love because she

always did special things for me.

- *She is joyful. She had a great sense of humor and we had many fun conversations. I*

learned to laugh at myself from her, and she was always laughing with me, not at me.

We received great joy in our life together and we always had a pet to give us joy. Lucy

was the last bundle of joy and it is my privilege and pleasure to keep her as my own.

- *She is artful. She always loved fine things and knew what to do with them. Her home*

and collections were amazing. She loved to decorate, and everything was color

coordinated and carefully arranged. Her Christmas trees were over the top and I loved

them. She took great pleasure in gardening and the results were beautiful.

- *She is hopeful. She was always ready with a word of encouragement, a special prayer,*

a gift to lift my spirit. She looked on the sunny side of life and passed that good cheer to

everybody. With her positive outlook I learned to be capable and responsible, and that

has served me well.

● *SHE IS FAITHFUL. She never lost faith in me, even when I was young and stupid. She prayed and prayed and things got better for all of us. When she was in her last stages of disease, and we were having a stressful day, I asked her, "Are you done with me yet?" She wrote "Never! I will never be done with you," This just floored me because I could see the Love of Christ within her in her darkest hour. She believed in Jesus for as long as I can remember, and she is God's faithful servant. She prayed for all of us and studied her bible. Because of her faith, I have faith. She has made it to her final, glorious destination-I am sure of it. I will miss her terribly, but I celebrate her life and her final reward. I Love You Mom, and I know that I will see you again.*

*Love,
Melanie*

Melanie McClendon - May 04, 2020 at 10:54 PM

KG

Beautiful tribute Melanie to your mom! ❤️

Karen gisel - May 05, 2020 at 09:18 AM

MW

Love your tribute to your mom, Melanie!

Marilyn Welch - May 05, 2020 at 12:38 PM

MB

Thank you for more loving info about your mom. I tried but I think I did something wrong so will try again. We can't say enough about her! Peace of the Lord to you.

Mary Lynne Barrow - May 05, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ 31 files added to the album Life Tributes



Adams Brown Service Funeral Home - May 04, 2020 at 10:04 AM

KG

“ Heartfelt condolences extended to the family of Marilyn Kotzebue! I pray for God's strength and comfort and peace that surpasses all understanding! Marilyn was such a classy, loving lady! Her daughter Melanie /family and all her many friends adored and cherished her friendship! she loved and was loved! We will miss her here until we will be reunited in God's presence! I am sure she already has her paint and rollerpan out and painting accent walls in all the mansions! As she is want to do for everyone! ❤️ until we meet up again my precious longtime friend, Marilyn! I love you to the moon and back! XOXO Karen gisel



Karen gisel - May 03, 2020 at 02:33 PM

DD

“ *Marilyn was a sweet, dear friend. I will always remember her lovely smile and willingness to help. I treasure our friendship.* ”

Donna Davis - May 02, 2020 at 01:02 PM

MM

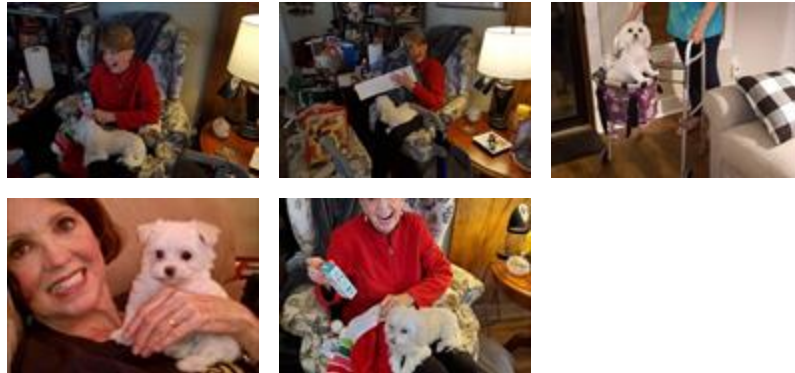
“ *Melanie McClendon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Kotzebue* ”



Melanie McClendon - May 02, 2020 at 09:47 AM

MM

“ *5 files added to the album Memories Album* ”



Melanie McClendon - May 01, 2020 at 11:37 PM