



## Kathy Vadas

February 10, 1950 - February 1, 2016

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Kathryn Ann Kocurek Vadas rode into the sunset on February 1, 2016. Kathy was born in Austin, Texas, on February 10, 1950 to Rudolph and Helen Kocurek. She graduated from McCallum High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and was in the Beauty Review.

Kathy studied Music and received a degree in Mathematics from the University of Texas with a focus on Computer Science. During her career as a computer programmer she worked for Espey-Huston Engineering and Whole Foods and she wrote the original program for the National Domestic Abuse Hotline.

Kathy loved her family, her friends, and her many well cared-for animals and will be so missed by all of them. She enjoyed many happy bar-b-ques with her family and friends, trail rides with her horses, and trips in the Gator with her dogs. [L SEP]

Kathy is survived by her soul mate of 40 years, her husband, Roy Vadas, and her sister, Carol McGhee and brother-in-law Grover, mother-in-law Joyce Vadas, sister-in-law Carol Leonard, nephew Scott Leonard, nieces Kimberly Judd and Kelly Schwartz and her husband Offir, and great-nephews Judah, Jett, and Jacob Schwartz. She is preceded in death by her parents, Rudy and Helen Kocurek, and many well-loved animals, too numerous to name but including Bismarck, Feather, Manny, Woody, Wahina, Smokey, and Strider. [L SEP]

A celebration of Kathy's life will take place at their ranch near Cedar Creek on the 4th of July

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Bastrop Animal Rescue at <http://www.bastropanimalrescue.org/>

# Comments

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“ I always thought that Austin was the coolest, most laid back place to be in all of Texas. And of the people I knew there, Kathy Vadas was always the definitive Texas woman. Beautiful and intelligent, vivacious and funny, always ready with a joke and a story, ready to share some laughs or some Lonestars.

**Sigrid Stewart** - February 11, 2016 at 07:53 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album FromSigrid



**Sigrid Stewart** - February 11, 2016 at 07:43 PM



“ Virginia have this picture also. Look at it every day!

**John Ruff** - February 12, 2016 at 08:32 AM



“ Yeah, mine is in the hallway.

**Sigrid** - February 16, 2016 at 11:27 AM

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“ Hippo Birdie Two Ewe Aunt Kathy! Can't tell you how much you are missed. So many times I stumbled in this life, you were such a mainstay in helping me put things back together. I always knew I could come out to the ranch and take some time to put things back into perspective. You had such an amazing way of listening, not pushing, and using humor to get me back on the path. You always seemed to understand, helped me tap into something deeper...what was really important. I've always had to fight everything along the way...somehow you just seemed to laugh and glide your way through. It was so grounding, so inspiring.

I will always cherish the memories of growing up on the ranch. I sure aspired to become a horse woman....but then there was pregnant Wahina running off with me. Scared the three of us to death I think. Some other little mishap with Rio...just wasn't meant to be. But there were the Easters hunting eggs, the Christmases and making "R" rated gingerman cookies, the accidental quadrupling of the pumpkin pie recipe (by a MATH MAJOR as I recall), picking dew berries on Mother's Day, the rocking millennium party...hell, too many rocking parties to count! Camping out in Blanco! Making those fabulous batik golf flags for Roy out in Oatmeal. And all those things we never told my mother about...what a good auntie!.....Coacoa Puffs, wine coolers, learning to drive your old truck, Hot Damn in the cold. I'm forever grateful.

It's so hard to let you go. Who will show me the way now? I owe you so much! Thank you for always providing a soft place to land and a warm solid heart to fall into.

XOXO-  
Kim

**Kimberly Judd** - February 10, 2016 at 05:24 PM



“ Kat will continue to show you the way - you just have to learn a new way of listening:) XO  
Pam

**Pam McAfee** - February 13, 2016 at 09:34 AM

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“ Cheers to you on our birthday eve! I'll see you on the other side my friend, mentor and idol!

**lindsey** - February 09, 2016 at 10:08 PM

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“ My dear, sweet, wonderful Kat. How could I ever begin to express what a blessing you have been to me my entire life. From sitting across the screen door playing with me when I had chicken pox, to not eating the mud pie I made you because you had better sense at 5! To standing on our heads for as long as we could in the summer grass, to playing hide and seek in the neighborhood, to climbing thru the caves at Shoal Creek and the storm sewers, to our bad attempts at cooking, to running to Ramsey Park in the summer – barefoot – hopping from shade spot to shade spot so we didn't have to keep up with shoes, to pretending our dogs were horses and making them jump our handmade jumping course, to endless hours of playing with our plastic horses until we were old enough to ride at stables and then to actually own our own and ride together! To summers camping at the reunion chasing the cute boys, to riding from Holiday House to Holiday House – again looking for the cute boys. To convincing you to accept your nomination in the Beauty Review in high school, to finally getting to college and many new adventures, to meeting Roy for the first time. To surviving the 60's and 70s! To bringing Moet into my family and adding Chandon because there was no place to separate her from Smokey, to wonderful campfires at Oatmeal, TX, to weekends in Cedar Creek. To seeing each other marry our soul mates and you being such a wonderful godmother to Caitlin. You always stood by me and loved me unconditionally thru good and some very bad decisions. No judgement from you ever. Your kindness to all living beings is unmatched by anyone I know. I will miss you my friend but I am forever grateful for our friendship and the lifetime of memories. Save a horse for me! I love you. Pam McAfee



**Pam McAfee** - February 07, 2016 at 04:46 PM



“ Best Friends Forever....

**Roy** - February 08, 2016 at 05:44 AM



“ Sending my condolences to you Roy, your Mom and sister Carol. I'm so sorry for your loss. Just know I'm there with you in thoughts and prayers. It's times like this that it's hard living so far apart. Rest in Peace Kathy. God Bless you.  
Love, Aunt Terry

**Terry Clark** - February 05, 2016 at 09:01 PM



“ I knew Kathy from as far back as I can remember. Though we didn't spend a huge amount of time together I just thought she was the coolest lady. One of my fondest memories was bailing hay for her and Roy for 12 hours with a friend of mine. We were completely filthy when we were done and Kathy fed us (a lot), bagged up our disgusting clothes and sprayed us off in the yard. We had nothing to wear so we had to drive back to Austin in our boots and boxers and I'll always remember Kathy standing there laughing and shaking her head as we drove off. I have other fond memories of her that I'll always keep dear to me and my love goes out to Roy and the family!

**Blake Sheffield** - February 05, 2016 at 06:26 PM

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“ I knew Kathy as Carol's little sister. Carol, my long time dear friend, was my roommate from nursing school long ago and Kathy was her free spirited, hippie chick sister ... back in the day. From the moment I met Kathy I felt her kind heart and generous spirit. It was always such a joy to be around Kathy. I always thought of her as the quintessential Texas woman...so strong, so gentle. Memories of time spent with Kathy and Roy always make my heart smile. I am grateful for the moments spent out at the ranch. I had the privilege of meeting some of her animals, most notably, Manny. Farewell my dear friend, you will live on in my memories and the memories of all who had the privilege to share moments with you.

**Sandy Brown** - February 05, 2016 at 12:18 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**jonathon griesheimer** - February 04, 2016 at 07:09 PM



“ this was at the girls house on Bee Creek 1975

**jon griesheimer** - February 04, 2016 at 11:56 PM

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“ I remember, it was this time of the year about 40 years ago. Roy told me he had met a lady and asked me if I wanted to go with him to her place. Kathy was living at Mels Motel (or cabins) on North Lamar. My first thought was what has Roy gotten himself in to. Then I met her and I realized, as usual, Roy knew what he was doing. Fly high like an eagle Kathy...Jon Griesheimer

jonathon griesheimer - February 04, 2016 at 06:52 PM

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“ I remember when Kathy and Roy first met and she became a part of the Austin "Midland Crew" back in the early hippie days in river city. She and Roy were the most perfectly matched couple I've ever known. Every time I think of Kathy, the image that comes to mind is with her head thrown back in sheer laughter and pure joy. Godspeed Kathy... your untimely death leaves a hole in the lives of those you left behind.



Ro Thompson - February 04, 2016 at 12:50 PM

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“ Kathy radiated a joie de vivre. She loved her Roy, her family and friends, her horses and her dogs and cats, her ranch and her life. She knew how to enjoy life and laugh and smile through adversity. She was also a very wise woman. Once when I was complaining about the rowdiness of my son and his friends, Kathy said to me, "You know, children are like horses, you got to be gentle but you got to tame them". I still smile thinking of that. She was also a blessed woman. She found the love of her life at an early age. As Forest Gump put it, Roy and Kathy "was like peas and carrots". Love you, Kathy.

Barbara B. Solomon

Barbara Solomon - February 04, 2016 at 09:24 AM

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“ Drove passed the Oatmeal cutoff the other day. What a complete, beautiful, person. I'm praying for peace upon your soul, Roy.

JoJo - February 04, 2016 at 04:26 AM

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“ Most of my best childhood memories are from time spent at Kathy and Roys. I looked forward to weekends growing up just to ride to her house, especially if there was a football game because that meant not only riding but a great meal! All the conversations, bonfires, hours in her round pen, life lessons, wisdom and horsemanship lessons will never be forgotten. Kathy will be missed by all of us on South Cedar Creek Drive. I know she had one happy heard waiting on her when she got where she was going.

Holly Cox - February 03, 2016 at 10:31 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cindy Abel - February 03, 2016 at 07:25 PM

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“ What an awesome gal she was.



Ross Abel - February 03, 2016 at 06:57 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



**Linda Howard** - February 03, 2016 at 06:24 PM



“ Alize's lucky adoption day...getting ready to join the Vadas herd at Darkhorse Ranch...

**Roy** - February 04, 2016 at 03:13 AM



“ a true Aquarian! Happy and laid back all the time! Memories are always good ones, on the 40 acres, kids running and riding, tall stories, friendship and love. Kathy, we will love and miss you forever. And I have no doubt we will all meet again.

**Virginia** - February 04, 2016 at 09:41 AM

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“ I met Kathy when she was a computer programmer at Espey Huston more than 35 years ago, I think. We quickly found out that we shared a passion for horses and became close friends. I have so many memories of visiting the various places where Kathy and Roy had their horses before the Dark Horse Ranch was a reality and later, of the many times we rode together. She and Roy are the reason that Alan and I found and bought our place in Cedar Creek, not coincidentally, just down the road. Some of my fondest memories are sitting on our horses with Lone Stars in hand, mind riding. We figured that as long as we were actually on horseback, it was technically riding. And I can't forget the time that we decided to take my old horse, Splash, to a Derby Day party in South Austin. In retrospect, we were insane for loading up the horse and riding double through city streets to surprise everyone at the party. But that was Kathy - always ready for fun especially when it involved horses. I will miss her dearly, but I know she has found her place amidst all the creatures she's loved and cared for during her life.

**Linda Howard** - February 03, 2016 at 06:22 PM

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“ I spent many a weekend on the ranch as a kiddo riding with Kathy. I loved horses, but she was the real deal. She was so wonderful with animals and loved them all. I so enjoyed weekends out there...so many wonderful memories of Kathy and Roy, Rio and Strider, and riding the gator and Manny, who was way bigger than me the first time I remember meeting him. Kathy was so fearless and always had the best advice.

Jessica Stewart Lettieri - February 03, 2016 at 04:44 PM

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“ I own horses in part because of Kathy. When I moved to Austin from NY with my husband, Mike, and my late brother, Lance, in 1990, I had the honor and privilege of getting to know Kathy and Roy, through Lance. Lance met Kathy and Roy and became good friends and they invited Lance to board his horse from NY at their beautiful ranch. At the time, Kathy and Roy had 9 fabulous and fun horses and she and Lance got me back into riding and Kathy offered me the opportunity to ride her horses - which I did and had a ball doing! Eventually, I got the bug to own my own horse and boarded it down the road at a neighbor's, as Kathy and Roy had too many darn horses on the property already! :) Lance and I would come out and ride almost every weekend, and often Kathy would join us. We went on many trail rides with Kathy, at her invitation. I have so many wonderful memories of riding and hanging out at the Vadas Ranch (aka Dark Horse Ranch). Kathy was such a warm and generous soul. She will be greatly missed by so many. I'd like to think that she is somewhere riding her Strider into the sunset every evening. With a Lone Star in hand, of course.

--liz

Liz Dundov - February 03, 2016 at 03:48 PM

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“ [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz90Cur\\_1cU](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz90Cur_1cU)

lindsey - February 03, 2016 at 02:45 PM

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“ I will forever remember rising in the early morning on trailrides with Kathy. My Fondest childhood memories are with her. I know she's in heaven "singing her cattle call":  
[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz90Cur\\_1cU](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz90Cur_1cU)

lindsey - February 03, 2016 at 02:44 PM



“ Happy trails to you, until we meet again.  
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.  
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?  
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.  
Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again.

Some trails are happy ones,  
Others are blue.  
It's the way you ride the trail that counts,  
Here's a happy one for you.

Happy trails to you, until we meet again.  
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.  
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?  
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.

Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again.

**Alan** - February 03, 2016 at 12:13 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Pics by Linda



**Alan** - February 03, 2016 at 12:11 PM