



Kathey Ann Ferland

April 23, 1954 - June 17, 2023

A celebration of Kathy's life will take place from 9am on August 5 in the chapel at St. Stephen's Episcopal School (6500 St. Stephens Dr.) Dress is casual. The Chapel is not air conditioned , but an air conditioned space is available and will be used for informal visiting after the service. Live streaming and a recording of the ceremony will be available at this link :
<https://www.youtube.com/live/rLXwYaeIBQs?feature=share>

After living with cancer and fighting it tenaciously, Kathey Ann Ferland died on June 17, 2023.

Kathey was born on April 23, 1954, at Bolling Field in Washington DC, the second child and only daughter of Andy and Marie Ferland. The family moved as military families do: to Panama when she was a toddler, at 6 years old to Alaska, which Kathey recalls as “in the middle of nowhere, where we went to school in a roller skating rink.” Another move came in the 4th grade, this one to Pensacola, FL, then to San Antonio in the 6th grade, where the family settled following Andy’s retirement from the Air Force.

There, she graduated from East Central High School in 1968. Her next stop was the University of Texas at Austin to earn her degree in English. When she

moved to Austin, she lived in Oakland House Co-op, where she met many of her deepest lifelong friends.

After her initial work experience, Kathey was inspired to work on environmental causes, motivating her to earn her initial Master's degree in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Ultimately she worked for Texas' natural resources agency. Her efforts led her to focus on companies' ability to manage hazardous waste. One career high point was producing a study whose recommendations were adopted, disproving the need for a particular type of facility, consequently eliminating the environmental impacts of their construction and operation.

Kathey then decided to work against climate change. In 2004, she went back to school at UT for another Masters, in Technology Commercialization. She received a grant to create a program at UT, called Texas Industries of the Future, to encourage companies to voluntarily conserve energy and not emit greenhouse gases. Her work included developing an international standard for energy management that is still being used abroad.

Around 2014, Kathey downshifted to part time work and consultancy, eventually retiring in 2018.

In addition to her professional efforts, Kathey said that "the other love of my life is energy, how we use it in our bodies and minds." She taught Ki Aikido for 25 years, and was a 4th degree Black Belt. She described it as "connected to my interest in the environment, how the world works." Kathey was dedicated to the study and practice of Buddhism. She co-founded and nurtured Mariposa Sangha, the local Insight Meditation group. She shares, "I love watching beginners, as the lights come on and they realize they're not prisoners of their minds."

Kathey found her path and became accomplished in her fields as a talented individual. That talented individual is one half of a remarkable team, and knowing Kathey means knowing her husband, Rick Pearson. She describes, "Rick and I met in 1989, started living together in 1990, and decided we were sure enough to tie the knot in 2009. He is my deepest love. I'm survived by Rick and Ella, the sweetest dog in the world. She brought so much joy this last year of my life, when we needed joy."

In addition to Rick and Ella, Kathey is survived by: brother Gary Ferland, wife Ann, niece Beth, and nephew Peter, wife Libby and baby Liza; brother Greg Ferland, wife Megan, niece HaleighGage, and nephews Guy and Truett; sister-in-law JoAnn Doyle, husband Andy, and nieces Zoë and Caisa; and sister-in-law Elizabeth Cain and niece Michelle Walter. So many beloved friends also survive Kathey. She was pre-deceased by her parents, brother Kevin, and her father-and mother-in-law Fred and Mary Pearson.

All of us, family and friends alike, are linked together by experiencing her kindness, strength, intelligence, warmth, wit, and that radiant Kathey smile. With our love wrapped around Rick, we hold Kathey always in our hearts as we send her on her way. Blessings.

Tribute Wall



“ I am very sad. It is 2025 and I just learned of Katheys death, My name is Stuart, I was a student of Kathey and a friend of Neil Bischoff. Why are my friends gone and I am here? Both of these lovely friends imbedded memories in my heart that will be with me always. One Point, steady, energy, love. I love you, I will remember.

Stuart Campbell - November 15, 2025 at 12:35 AM

SB

“ I was so sad to learn recently that Kathy left us. I worked with Kathy in support of Dept of Energy initiatives in TX. Kathy had a wonderful heart and was passionate about the work, resulting in successful accomplishments. Rest in peace, Kathy. My condolences to family and friends.

Sabine B - October 01, 2025 at 10:22 AM



“ Kathey Ann Ferland

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ Kathey Ann Ferland

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ Kathey Ann Ferland

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM

SD

“ I will truly miss my friend and bridge buddy. I am very sad to lose my 3x weekly bridge games along with the support and companionship she offered.

Susan DiLorenzo - July 03, 2023 at 02:02 PM

AM

“ My life was blessed by this beautiful woman. She touched so many lives.

Anne Minor - June 28, 2023 at 02:15 PM

JK

“ I had the privilege of studying with, and being trained by Ferland Sensei at the Austin Ki Aikido Center for several years. Her teaching allowed her students to absorb the training and she took great delight in seeing her students progress at their own pace. She encouraged people to break through their self imposed barriers and find the confidence to get to the next level. I will always be grateful for her friendship. My love and condolences to Rick and her family.
Jim Kearns

Jim Kearns - June 23, 2023 at 10:21 PM