



## Kathryn Ann Roberts

May 16, 1951 - April 21, 2024

Kathryn A. Roberts, 72, of Hot Springs, graduated from this life on April 21, 2024. She built a legacy out of her love for teaching and inspiring her family, friends and her students.

She was predeceased by her parents, Herbert Morris Cook and Elizabeth Ann Zinn.

Her survivors include; daughter, Ragan Roberts; sons, Rhett Roberts (Cris) and Rory Roberts (Sandi); brother, Brad Cook; sisters, Dawn Waddle and Kim Navalance; beloved grandchildren, Drew, Declan, Chloe and Reese and numerous nieces and nephews.

After graduating from Lakeside High School in 1969, Kathey earned her BSE and MSE at Henderson State University. In 1988, she was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching, the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade science, technology, engineering, or mathematics teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. In 2006, Kathey was honored to receive the Arkansas Excellence in Education Award and went on to be named the South Central Regional recipient of Excellence in Education Award having been chosen from 6 states. She was a proud member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international organization for women educators. She participated in the Arkansas Epsilon Chapter where she served as President for two terms. She attended many regional and international ADK conferences and conventions around the U.S. Ms. Roberts taught Biology and other sciences at Lakeside High School from

1976 until her retirement in 2010. During her teaching career she was active in numerous activities and competitions including Future Problem Solving, Robotics and Olympics of the Mind where she won numerous state competitions including an international victory as well. She was a long-time member and former officer of the Lakeside Alumni Association. She was also a member and former secretary of Garland County Retired Teachers Association.

Before it became a trend, Kathey pioneered the use of adaptive technologies for students with disabilities, enabling them to engage in hands-on learning experiences. Students with paralysis, muscle memory problems or confined to a wheelchair, were provided the opportunity to learn aside with the other students. Kathey spearheaded the establishment of Lakeside High's inaugural greenhouse and successfully secured multiple funded grants to enhance her students' understanding of the science.

Besides her pride in her children and her 4 grandchildren, Kathey enjoyed spending time with her running buddies, Kaye White and Rachel Shankles. Together they made many memories. Traveling to Branson or Florida, meeting to share long lunches at local restaurants or cooking at The Wharf. The Three Amigos were BFF's and have the tee shirts to prove it.

Kathey's life and legacy will be celebrated on May 19th at Arc Isle, 203 Lookout Point, Hot Springs, AR 71913. The service will be officiated by Mike Pounders at 1:00 pm followed by a Celebration of Life. Friends and former students are welcome to attend.

Arrangements are by Hot Springs Funeral Home  
Online condolences at [www.hotspringsfh.com](http://www.hotspringsfh.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY **19**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Arc Isle  
203 Lookout Point  
Hot Springs, AR 71913

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ Dear family, I am sorry that I had to miss the celebration of Kathey's life. I know you will miss her forever because she was larger than life! Until that great reunion. Gail Payton Sears

Gail Sears - May 28, 2024 at 10:15 AM

RB

“ Sincere condolences to the family. I am so very sorry for your loss. May God provide the necessary peace and comfort to your family and friends during this difficult time. Please remember these words of encouragement from the Bible: “Jesus plainly told her: I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life.” —John 11:20-25.

R Bell - May 18, 2024 at 12:51 PM

MS

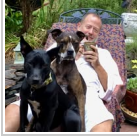
“ I enjoyed Kathey during our times together over the years at Future Problem Solving Program International conferences. She was always so friendly and helpful. I'm sure she will be missed by many. RIP, Kathey.

Marianne Solomon - April 30, 2024 at 02:40 PM

CS

“ Kathey and I spent many hours together on the road to and from basketball games. Sending love and prayers to Rhett, Andy, and Ragan. You three were the loves of her life. She will be missed.

Cindy Smith - April 30, 2024 at 06:52 AM



“ I’ve had been meaning to post this earlier and then found out via Facebook that our beloved team leader, fantastic teacher and friend of my family Kathey Roberts had passed away. I adored her. She always encouraged my creativity but could also be a stern taskmaster when your a\*\* needed kicking! She was fearless, brilliant and one of the funniest people I know. I immediately thought about this footage and got to posting. You get to see her at the end of the video and frankly I am in tears seeing us all hugging her. Godspeed Kathey, and know that you made the world such a better place than you found it. You are missed. You are loved.



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**Jack Myers** - April 29, 2024 at 11:27 AM



“ Mrs. Roberts guided this “Olympics of the Mind” geek through five years of competition and four state championships. After our first state win, she drove our scrappy little team from Hot Springs to Flagstaff AZ in a school van with no air-conditioning in June. She did this and so much more without compensation. She loved her students, and I love her.

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**Chip Brian** - April 27, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ Kathy and I attended many workshops together. She was a wonderful teacher. Rest In Peace, dear friend.

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**Janie Jones** - April 27, 2024 at 09:15 AM

NK

“ Love and sympathy. Kathy blessed our lives with her intellect and love of children.



Nancy Koonce - April 26, 2024 at 11:07 PM

NF

“ I went to school with Kathey, graduated together. My Wife worked with her at Lakeside and somehow She talked me into helping her (and others) Build an Aviary! Loved her and will miss her! Prayers for family and friends!

Naaman Freeman - April 26, 2024 at 10:52 PM

BS

“ Ms. Roberts was always one of my favorites. I enjoyed her not only as a teacher, but as a person as well. Sending love and prayers for Ragan, Andy and Rhett.

Becky Bachelor Shook - April 26, 2024 at 08:47 PM

JH

“ She was one of my favorite teachers and always had something positive to say. She had a great sense of humor. She had to putting up with our class. I wish my kids could've gone to Lakeside just to take her class.

John Henry - April 26, 2024 at 04:52 PM

CY

“ *Kathey was my cousin. So many fun memories as kids. Times in Red Rock before they moved to Hot Springs. If you were with Kathey you knew a fun time was in store. Will sure miss you Kathey.*



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**Cheryll Yeisley** - April 26, 2024 at 03:41 PM

MS

“ *Our sweet Alpha Delta Kappa sister will be missed. It was always great to visit with her at the conventions. RIP*

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**Minetta Smith** - April 26, 2024 at 12:00 PM

GL

*Awww, my heart!!! Y'all she was just the BEST Teacher!!! Her class was the highlight of my day!!! Prayers for Rhett and the rest of the gang!! Much Love Glenda Peake-Covey and Brady Covey*

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**GlendaCovey** - April 26, 2024 at 07:15 PM

GH

*Always enjoyed Kathy as a classmate. She was involved in everything and had an exuberance for life. Will miss seeing her during our next class reunion. What a Person she was!*

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**George Hamilton** - April 29, 2024 at 02:03 PM