



## Norma Kennedy

August 17, 1929 - July 25, 2017

Norma Kennedy, 87, a sixty year resident of Fayetteville, AR, passed away July 25, 2017 in Springdale. She was born August 17, 1929 in St. Louis, MO to James Clay Dolley and Lois (Dee) Dolley. In her early years, the family traveled cross country to Berkley, California for her father to complete his Ph.D. in Economics. Her father accepted a professorship in economics at the University of Texas. The family made their longtime home in Austin. A one year sabbatical took the family to Dallas where her father served as the V.P. of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Norma led an active social life in Austin and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Home Economics. She swam competitively at UT and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. After college, Norma worked for the Texas state legislature. She married Robert E. Kennedy Jr. of Kilgore, TX in 1952. They lived in Dallas where Norma served in many organizations and volunteered as a Red Cross driver. Back in Austin, after a year, she served as the President of the Junior Austin Women's Club. The family moved to Fayetteville in 1957 where Bob accepted a Professor of Finance position at the University of Arkansas. In Fayetteville, besides her mothering duties, she taught Red Cross swim lessons and served as PTA president multiple times. She found pleasure in cooking, sewing, antiquing, and tennis. Norma was instrumental in founding a new chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta at the U of A. She worked tirelessly to support the active members. A large part of her life was dedicated to P.E.O. Initiated in 1951 in an Austin chapter, she was very active in her local chapters, again, serving as president. Norma was on the Arkansas State Board of P.E.O. serving as every officer culminating in the presidency 1978-1979. She loved her P.E.O. sisters. Norma worked at World Wide Travel Agency planning travel for area people, university staff, and students, many foreign. Her tales of personal and client travel kept the family entertained for years. As a perquisite, she visited many resorts, took many cruises, and traveled to the Caribbean and Europe several times. Norma also wrote a question-and-answer article titled "Ask Endy Kaye" for the NW Arkansas Times. Contents ranged from Fayetteville road construction to science or cooking questions. Norma continued her love of the Texas hill country by serving as a camper, counselor, and office director at Camp Mystic. Even in latter years, this endless camper spent summers on the Guadalupe River, at camp, where she was the voice on the intercom. In 2011, Norma

married her best friend, Leroy Pearce, after being together for three decades. They lived happily in Fayetteville until Leroy's death in 2014. Norma will be missed greatly by friends and family. She will leave an unimaginable void in the hearts of all those that loved her. Her sense of humor, caring nature, and sense of gratitude for each day set a wonderful example for all. She was preceded in death by her husband Leroy Pearce, and a son Robert Edward Kennedy III. She is survived by two daughters, Karen Compton and husband Gary of Springdale, AR and Lauren Kennedy and husband David Foley of Frisco, TX, three grandchildren, Alex Buckley, Jack Buckley and wife Paola, Barry and Robert Newell, and two great grandchildren. Visitation will be held 9:30 AM, Saturday, July 29th with the service beginning at 10:00 AM in the Chapel of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home with Revered Bruce Smithson officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville. Memorial contributions may be made to Washington Regional Medical Foundation, P.O.; Box 356 Fayetteville, AR 72702 or the Humane Society of the Ozarks, 1020 1 Mile Road Fayetteville, AR 72704.

# Events

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**JUL**   **Visitation**                      09:30AM - 10:00AM

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Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory  
4520 N. Crossover Rd., Fayetteville, AR, US, 72703

**JUL**   **Funeral Service**    10:00AM

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Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory  
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# Comments

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“ Karen, my deepest sympathies in the death of your mother. I knew her best as a member of the Theta House corporation for Delta Nu. But reading her obituary I see we have so much in common. I also swam competitively and was a 50 year Red Cross WSI and other RC Instructor. Having graduated from High School in Austin, Texas I also floated in the Guadalupe River, mainly at Camp Warneke, Texas. I will be sure and tell my sister René Starr about your mother's death. Again my deepest sympathies.

**Linda Kay Vandenberg White** - August 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Karen and family, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Norma. I will always remember her as one of the alumnae at Delta Nu Theta that meant so much to me. She was so supportive and a joy to be around. I am glad I got to see her this year at a Theta luncheon. I send my deepest sympathy, Roberta Boyd Billingsley

**Roberta Billingsley** - August 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Karen, A few minutes ago I sat down to catch up on my "behind reading" - both newspapers and magazines from several weeks. When I saw your mother's picture, I was so sad for your family! But, what a great lady and legacy she left for all of you. Losing her will always leave a "hole in your heart", but it does become less acute over time, but will still be there. Ed and I send our sympathy; God bless. Marinell Adair

**Marinell Adair** - August 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Karen and Lauren, So sorry to hear of Norma's death. I know we had gaps of time when we didn't see each other but in the early years at the Kennedy Home in Kilgore, I so looked forward to your family coming to join us during the holidays! Norma was always so much fun and easy for me to connect. I enjoyed her humor and laughter. If you ever get this way, please give me a call! Love to all!

**Margaret Cibele** - July 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your wonderful mother, Norma! She was a great lady and one that will be missed by family and friends. May the Lord comfort all of you and strengthen you during this time.

Susan Wizer - July 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ When I transferred to Chapter BU, I was thrilled to find another University of Texas graduate there--Norma! Our mutual affection for UT cemented our relationship. She became our travel agent, my answer lady as Endy Kaye, and my PEO mentor. I adored her. I know that Chapter Eternal is energized by her laugh, her "get it done" attitude, and her sense of humor. I'm sure she's calling everyone "presh". Lots of love from me and from Chapter BU.

Susan Riggs - July 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss of such an amazing lady! Loved your mom! Sending you all our Love And hugs and prayers,Robin (Hall) & Robert Guadagnini

Robin Guadagnini - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ We just loved Norma! And your whole family. We have so many memories through the years. Please know we send our deepest sympathies. Love, The Bob Hall family. Bob & ColeenRobin (and Robert) & Teddy (and Lavon)

Bob E Hall - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Karen, your mom helped raise me and my brothers. We adored her. She was the dearest and most steadfast friend to my mom. Her vibrancy and warmth enriched our lives in countless ways. With the fondest memories of Norma, I send my deepest sympathy.

Beverly Bassett Schaffer - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I always admired Norma!!!! Loved her column in the paper and it was always a pleasure to run into her because she was so cheerful and upbeat. Rob and I are so very sorry for your loss and we send our sincerest sympathies.

Kathy Merry-Ship - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Growing up there was a handful of VERY COOL MOMS. . . Norma was one of them!!! We will miss You Endy Kaye!!

**Rob Merry-Ship** - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ We did not have the pleasure of knowing your mom Karen but knowing you we feel we somehow have a glimpse of the person your mom was. You can be proud you are her daughter.

**Donna Carter** - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ We did not know your mom but we know she must have been a great person, she accomplished so much in her life. Karen, you can be proud to have been her daughter. We will be thinking of your family during this time and we will be praying for you.

**Donna Carter** - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Karen, I'm so sorry. You have had a tough time lately, first your brother , and now Norma. I'm thinking of you and praying for you. Sincerely, Wayne Buckley

July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Your mom was one in a million! I'll never forget her laugh or her loving nature every time I saw her. I have so many good memories of her and your family that will stay in my heart ?. She was always there for mom and mom loved her so much!! She is going to be missed. After mom passed, when I would see Norma, it was like I saw a little of mom too:) I loved her dearly!

**Carin Evans** - July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM