



Celebrating the Life of

Cynthia Harrell Hess

May 14, 1959 - December 2, 2021



Cynthia Harrell Hess joined our Lord and Savior on December 2, 2021, in the loving company of her husband and three daughters.

Cindy, known as Cindy Lu to those closest to her, was born to her parents, Jay and Betty Jeanne Harrell, in El Paso on May 14, 1959. She graduated Eastwood Highschool in 1977 and attended the University of Texas at El Paso where she swam for the college's swim team. Cindy later transferred to Texas Tech where she joined the Chi Omega sorority and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising. Guns up, Cindy forever bled red and black for Texas Tech. Cindy later earned her Master's in Education at the University of North Texas with a 4.0 GPA. In her professional years, she worked at JCPenney where she met her husband, Brett. She later went to work for San Antonio Light before joining Brett in the apparel industry for 20 years. Cindy later partnered with Brett as Operations Manager for Hi View Real Estate and worked as a licensed Real Estate Agent for nearly 10 years.

Cindy and Brett married September 29, 1984 in Victoria, Texas. They welcomed their three daughters, Corene in 1989, Kristin in 1992, and Carlene in 1995. The family moved to Waxahachie in 1996.

Cindy left the world a better place than she found it. She was an amazing woman who always put others before herself and spread love throughout her community and in her friendships. Her philanthropy and charity started when she began volunteering for DEAR day, Go Van Gough, and Meals on Wheels. Her daughters vividly remember driving around Waxahachie and dropping off dinner to those less fortunate. Everyone felt the love and care of Cindy. She was active in Partners in Education and Service League and loved being on the Symphony Board and her church board. She was also president of the Education Foundation, was a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board and organized its charity golf tournament for many years. Cindy co-managed Project Graduation and Belles and Beaus for the Waxahachie High School Seniors.

In 2014, Cindy was recognized for her work in the community and was crowned the Crape Myrtle Queen of Waxahachie, an outstanding award and honor. By 2017 she received the WoodmenLife Caring for Others Award. Above all, she loved her daughters and raised them to be strong, smart women by driving them to countless play practices, volleyball games, and activities. “One person can and does make a difference.” -Albert Schweitzer. We could all be a little more like Cindy.

In her spare time, Cindy enjoyed family activities, such as traveling, RV camping, visiting her daughters in New York City, trips to see her parents in New Mexico, Alaskan adventures, Florida beaches, San Antonio weekends, and family reunions at the Colorado ranch house. Cindy loved time with her friends playing golf, racquetball, tennis, practicing yoga, seeing musicals and attending the symphony. She was a huge sports fan and loved supporting the Texas Rangers, anything Texas Tech and, most of all, her daughters’ volleyball games all over the country. Cindy Lu Sweets was created after baking became another one of Cindy’s passions. Cindy’s love language became decorating gorgeous cookies for her family and friends for all their parties and big life events.

Cindy is survived by her husband of 37 years, Brett, and their daughters: Corene, Kristi and Carly, as well as her father, Jay, and her brothers, Tim and Jonathan. Cindy also had many “bonus children” and was a beloved mother figure to many.



Memorial Service

The Avenue Church | December 18, 2021

Officiant: Chris Hess

Speakers: Bonney Ramsey, Lora Graham, Gale Grant

Song: “Broken Halos” performed by Brett Hess and Kevin Kosoris

Poem: “Cindy Lu” by Super Bob Gold

*Be like a pineapple -
stand tall, wear a crown,
and be sweet on the inside.*

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16



thank you

Dr. Yolanda Brady, Laurie Navarro, Lora Graham, Jenny Nivens, Sophie Stevens, Tresa Bigham, Mary Alice Deviney, and the dear friends and family who supported Cindy through her battle.

In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cindy Hess Memorial YMCA Capital Improvement plan through CNB of Texas and Spot Fund:
spot.fund/CindyHessMemorialYMCAPlan

Cindy Lu

by Bob Gold

Dear Cindy Lu, who we all know, was wife, and mom and friend,
Devoted to her husband, Brett, she'd search to earth's far end,
No matter where, or when, or how, no matter what the cost,
Because she was Brett's partner, and his "Finder of Things Lost."

A newly wed herself, she was something of a scamp,
When landing near our cousins home, on Raleigh airport's ramp,
She stepped out from the Delta plane, 'twas decked out to the nine's,
Black mini-skirt, and cowboy boots, her hat reached toward the sky.
And down the stairs, with grace and flair, she walked down toward our way,
We don't remember anything, but Cindy Lu that day.

'Twas just an eye-blink later, and dear Cindy was a mom,
Loving, caring, giving, perhaps fearsome, might say some.
She's at a large house party, with her peanut named Corene,
They're in the upstairs bedroom, and she hoped Corene might dream.
But the party was a little loud, the music was too much,
So Cindy Lu waltzed down the stairs, and told us all to hush!

Cindy was a vegan, so she'd rather not eat pork,
I think that broiled Brussels sprouts, were more likely on her fork.
I know that she could change her fare, perhaps a salmon dish,
So in Alaska, waders on, she'd with her dear Brett, fish.
'Twas clear to see, the love that she, had for her dearest Brett,
With water cold, and depths untold, she didn't break a sweat,
Her line would flash, the fish would dash, chilled current on her thighs
For she was with, and she'd been caught, by Brett, her greatest prize.

A trip she made, dear Dot to save, from Covid's nasty clutches
She drove a week, with hopes to say, "I'll make you healthy lunches!" So,
Dot, Mom, Cor-ene, Kristi, Carly, and Brett bro-of-mine,
Spent two weeks in Waxahachie, a-loving-special time!
And Cindy treated our dear Dot, exactly like a queen,
Despite the fact that dear Dot's meals were mostly shades of green.

A Crepe's a tree, that all can see, with showy summer flowers,
Attractive bark, and in the fall, shows lovely, brilliant colors.
Cindy Lu gave time and love, and gifts to all her town,
And was honored hence, Crepe Myrtle Queen, bestowed thus with a crown.
That tree, so tall and graceful, and with beauty clear to see,
Describes our lovely Cindy Lu, so very perfectly.

I know that Cindy loved the Lord, and is sitting with Him now,
I think she nods her head a lot, and is likely saying, "Wow!"
"My daughters will do WHAT?" she asks, a smile growing wide
"I'm glad it's true that you will be, a helper by their side."

I'd like to think she's looking down, at Brett and daughters-three,
A knowing smile on her face, at what their future brings.
That when her family prays in groans to God, Who's up on high,
He'll love, and comfort each of them, as time on earth goes by.
And, the Lord might blow a soft sweet breath, so Myrtle trees will sway,
So we might see dear Cindy Lu, in a very special way...

