



## Mary Barbara Yokum

February 1, 1931 - March 1, 2019

Mary Barbara Gertrude Gendusa Yokum of Lubbock, Texas, formerly of Amarillo, TX, died on March 1, 2019 in Lubbock. Mary was 88 years of age, having been born February 1, 1931, in New Orleans, LA to Anthony J. Gendusa, Sr. and Gertrude May Beck. Mary is survived by her son, Jeff Yokum of Amarillo; and daughter, Kristin Yokum Cooper and son-in-law, Richard Cooper of Lubbock, TX—and six grandchildren—Christopher Cooper of Lubbock, TX.; Richard Anthony Cooper II of Phoenix , AZ.; Jacob Yokum (wife, Whitney) of Tulsa, OK.; Joshua Yokum and Sarah Yokum of Lubbock, TX.; and Kelsey Cooper, of The Woodland's, TX. Her siblings—Anthony J. Gendusa Jr.; Gertrude May Gendusa and sister-in-law, Darlene Gendusa of New Orleans. Mary is preceded in death by her half-sister Mary Lou Morrison, brother, Salvadore Gendusa, her parents, and ex-husband, Calvin William Yokum.

Mary received her B.A. degree with Honors from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA., and was a member of Delta Zeta Sorority. Mary Barbara then married Calvin William Yokum in February of 1952, and began her profession as a teacher for first-grade students in Covington and Baton Rouge, LA. She had a son, Jeffrey Sigmund Yokum in Baton Rouge, and a daughter, Kristin Briana Cooper in Gulfport, Mississippi, before moving to Amarillo, TX in 1963. Mary later achieved her M.Ed. In Counseling and Psychology as well as her Master's as a Professional Educational

Diagnostician from West Texas A &M University in Canyon, TX. She was a counselor with the Amarillo School system specializing in special education, working principally in middle schools with emotionally disturbed students and teaching parenting skills to parents including those of autistic students. While she was employed with AISD, she enjoyed teaching undergraduates in the Department of Education/Psychology at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, TX. Mary also established the Tutoring Center for Academic Excellence in Amarillo. Also, Mary served on the Texas Tech University Chancellor's Council. Mary and Cal divorced in 1977.

Mary Barbara retired after 33 years in the public school system. Her special interests were writing poetry, sewing, hand-crafts, biographies and pursuing family genealogical ties. She was a charter member and past- president of the Kappa ETA Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Mary Barbara was also president of the Hi-Plains Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo; Amarillo Area Association of Mental Health Professionals, Texas Retired Teachers Association; Amarillo Republican Women and served on the Advisory Council for the CareNet Pregnancy Center in Amarillo. She was also a charter member of Christian Counselors of Texas, and the American Association of Christian Counselors. She was involved in the Panhandle Christian Counselors, American Heart Association, and served as City-wide Residential Campaign Chairman.

Every year, Mary Barbara organized her Martin Behrman High School class reunion for her former classmates in her hometown Algiers which is on the West-Bank of New Orleans. (Her 70th reunion was in October of 2017)

Mary was also very involved and proud of her six wonderful, successful grandchildren—Christopher, Anthony, and Kelsey Cooper; and Jacob, Joshua, and Sarah Yokum. She enjoyed each of them immensely.

Upon retiring, Mary Barbara Gendusa-Yokum became more involved in the Panhandle Professional Writers group and Hi-Plains Poetry Society. She wrote numerous stories and poems; selections of her poetry have been published online and in various literary volumes. She also Co-authored two flash fiction books: Flash Tales-An Adventure in Words and Flash Tales 2-A Collection of Flash Fiction. Her goals were to publish books of her poetry and anecdotal records of life in the Deep South- Louisiana and Mississippi.

Condolences may be shared online or sent to 4607 92nd Street, Lubbock, TX. 79424.

# Cemetery Details

## Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park

15602 TX-493 Loop  
Lubbock, TX 79423

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park  
15602 TX-493 Loop  
Lubbock, TX 79423

## Memorial Service

MAR 23. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church-Amarillo  
1100 South Harrison Street  
Amarillo, TX 79101

# Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Barbara Yokum.* ”



March 21, 2019 at 10:53 PM



“ *70 files added to the album Life Tributes* ”



**Sanders Funeral Home** - March 13, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Mary Barbara Yokum.* ”



March 11, 2019 at 12:31 PM

BH

“ *God Bless Mary Yokum! Bryan Hampton*

**Bryan Hampton** - March 10, 2019 at 10:51 PM

DT

“ *My dear sweet Mary , you will be missed so much ! I'm so glad that I got to see you a few months ago to let you know I was missing our chats ! You were a great mother and friend and I will always cherish the friendship that we had . Love, Deena*

**Deena Turk** - March 08, 2019 at 11:53 PM

KH

*May you all have peace about your Mom and Grandmother. She was a very giving lady and I loved her and enjoyed the times we were together at Hi-Plains Poetry and Inspirational Writers Alive. God bless you each and everyone. Love and Prayers, Katy Hupp - Pampa, TX*

**Katy Hupp** - March 09, 2019 at 10:48 AM

AG

*I have many fun memories of Mary, who was a great friend to my mom (Barclay). My favorite, though, was the trip the 3 of us took to New Orleans, with Mary as our personal tour guide. I'll never forget the warmth of everyone we met - Sister (who offered her home), Brother & Darlene, and Rudy. What fun memories of the plantations, my first time down Bourbon Street, awesome food, etc. Rest in peace, sweet Mary!*

**Allison Gilbreath** - March 10, 2019 at 08:49 AM

FB

*Mary Bee, Thanks you for being my friend for those scores of years! The reunions you crafted will never be forgotten, All will miss your sweet smile. Blessings!*

**French Brownlee** - March 10, 2019 at 11:30 AM

HV

*May your memory be a blessing! Heidi van Zanten for the Raffkind family*

**HvZ** - March 13, 2019 at 11:51 AM