



Gloria Ann Valka Whiteley

June 25, 1952 - November 19, 2019

Celebrating the Life of
Gloria Ann Valka Whiteley
Monday, November 25, 2019 10:00 a.m.
Woodcrest United Methodist Church
Lumberton, Texas



Words of Grace Pastor Charles Jordan

Special Music “*Beulah Land*” Clayton Caywood

Scripture John 14:1-1-4

Prayer

Celebration of the Life of Gloria Whiteley Martha Tomb
Jason Whiteley

Special Music “*How Great Thou Art*” Mike Westbrook
Ross Boothman

Scripture Proverbs 31:10-31

Words of Comfort: Let Her Children Arise and Call Her Blessed

Prayer

Hymn “*Blessed Assurance*” Clayton Caywood





Gloria Ann Valka Whiteley
was born into a Czech-American community in El Campo Texas on June 25, 1952. She was the second child of Annie Jennie Dornak Valka and William George Valka. Gloria spent her early years experiencing life within the large Czech community and by helping out on family farms when not in school. Gloria frequently recalled those days as ones that helped give her an appreciation for hard work and the value of family – and instilled in her a lifetime love of gardening. Gloria especially enjoyed her flowering plants, and could be

found tending, cutting and admiring them year-round.

Of course, growing up in a Czech community meant that life revolved around the kitchen – and Gloria made that her domain. She worked alongside her grandmother, Frances, and her mother, Annie to turn the harvest into tables full of delicious foods, including, of course, the baked goods for which Czechs are so well-known - kolaches. Until the very end, Gloria could still be found mixing up a batch of her special sugar cookies for her grandchildren and never failed to have at least a couple dozen kolaches frozen “just in case.” It remains unclear if Gloria could actually cook for less than a dozen people. Friends and family were always welcome at her table. Her strong connection to her Czech heritage remained with her throughout her life.

It was partly her skills with respect to dessert preparation – and partly a devastating set of emerald green eyes and platinum blonde hair – that ambushed a young Aggie named Mark in Beaumont. Although Mark was an employee of Gloria’s father, Bill, it was not long before they had fallen in love. They married January 8, 1972 and began 47.5 years together.

The early days were lean. Gloria had supported Mark’s dream of opening his own business, but they had precious little between them

other than a moody AMC Gremlin, a bit of optimism and a whole lot of grit. Soon after launching the business, Gloria became pregnant with their first child, Jason. In the two and a half years that followed, Mark's business grew as did the family, as Gloria gave birth to second son, Adam and a daughter, Frances. Suddenly, the gamble to open the business was one that could not fail.

With a growing family, Gloria and Mark moved to Lumberton in 1979 where they enrolled their children in school and quickly settled into a community that would yield many lifelong friends. Gloria stayed busy over the next twenty years as a mom, a den leader, a coach and a wife. She ran for, and was elected to the Lumberton ISD School Board, where she advocated for student welfare and increased collegiate prep programming. Pursuit of education, in all aspects, was one of Gloria's passions. She taught G.E.D. in Kountze for years before deciding to get her Masters degree from Stephen F. Austin and join the faculty at Lumberton High School and, later, Lamar Institute of Technology.

With her children grown and grandchildren arriving by the year, Gloria fully embraced the role of grandmother. Showcasing the cooking and baking talents that she first learned as a girl in El Campo to the delight of the grandkids (and despair of their parents). Gloria dazzled as the center of a family orbit that remained close in heart, even as it grew in number. She was the center of our universe.

Gloria was called home on November 19, 2019. At the time of death, she was surrounded by her family and her friends. Survivors include her children, Jason Whiteley and his wife, Jana, of Rye, New York; Adam Whiteley and his wife, Cinnamon, of South Riding, Virginia; and Frances Currie and her husband, Paul, of Rowlett; grandchildren, Noah Whiteley, Dominik Whiteley, Anastasia Whiteley, Ethan Whiteley, Emma Whiteley, Ainsley Currie, and Carter Currie; brothers, Kenneth Valka and his wife, Beverly, of Belton and William Valka and his wife, Barbara, of Spring; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Mark Wayne Whiteley.





Remember Me

Speak of me as you have always done.
Remember the good times, laughter, and fun.

Share the happy memories we've made.
Do not let them wither or fade.

I'll be with you in the summer's sun
And when the winter's chill has come.

I'll be the voice that whispers in the breeze.
I'm peaceful now, put your mind at ease.

I've rested my eyes and gone to sleep,
But memories we've shared are yours to keep.

Sometimes our final days may be a test,
But remember me when I was at my best.

Although things may not be the same,
Don't be afraid to use my name.

Let your sorrow last for just a while.
Comfort each other and try to smile.

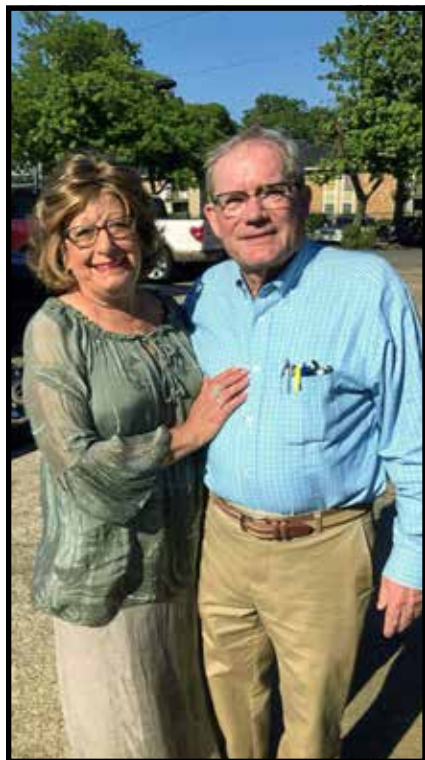
I've lived a life filled with joy and fun.
Live on now, make me proud of what you'll become.

- Anthony Dowson

















Pallbearers

Paul Currie
Jason Whiteley
Adam Whiteley
Noah Whiteley
Frank Kacal
Allen Viktorin

Interment

Guedry Cemetery
11129 Batson Prairie Loop Road
Batson, Texas 77519

Memorial Contributions

Gloria and Mark Whiteley Agricultural Scholarship
Lumberton Education Foundation
P.O. Box 8551
Lumberton, Texas 77657



Please sign Mrs. Whiteley's guest book and share your memories at
www.broussards1889.com