



Catherine Matzke Drapela

September 1, 1929 - February 24, 2019

Catherine Matzke Drapela of El Campo died suddenly February 24, 2019 at the age of 89. She was born September 1, 1929 in Crescent to the late Raymond and Linnie Maerz Matzke. She served 2 ½ terms as Wharton County Commissioner Pct. 4, was an active member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Catholic Daughters of America Court #1374, the RCIA program, St. Philip's Lazarus Choir and El Campo Quilters.

She is survived by her children Ray Drapela of Bastrop, Mary Kay Beard & husband Tommy of Palacios, Patty Frankson & husband David of Palacios, Tommy Drapela & wife Brenda of Taiton, Timmy Drapela & wife Debbie of El Campo, Billy Drapela & wife Carrie of El Campo, Susie Orsak & husband Mike of Hillje, John Drapela of El Campo, James Drapela & wife Linda of Richmond, Elizabeth Markason & husband Steve of Jackson Hole, WY, Margy Cerny & husband Tom of El Campo; brother Joe Ray Matzke & wife Jeanette of Lake Jackson; 27 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband C. F. "Doc" Drapela, son Charles Francis Drapela III, sisters Mary Hacke and Margaret Brown.

Visitation will be 3 to 5 pm Tuesday, February 26, at Triska Funeral Home and from 6 pm to 7 pm at St. Philip Catholic Church with a CDA Rosary and Parish

Vigil Service starting at 7 pm. The Funeral Mass will be 10 am Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at St. Philip Catholic Church with Rev. Michael Rother officiating. Entombment will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park.

Serving as pallbearers are Chuck Frankson, J. C. Orsak, Nathan Drapela, Steven Drapela, Brandon Drapela, Ryan Drapela, Michael Orsak, Leslie Ellis, Landon Drapela, Robert Drapela and Andrew Beard. Honorary pallbearers are her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations in Catherine's memory may be made to St. Philip School Endowment Fund.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Memorial Park

US Hwy 59 and Mechanic St.
El Campo, TX 77437

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 26. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Viewing

FEB 26. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Wake Service/Rosary

FEB 26. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Entombment

FEB 27 (CT)

Holy Cross Memorial Park
US Hwy 59 and Mechanic St.
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall

“ I wish to extend my condolences to the family of Catherine Drapela. This comes a bit late because I just recently was informed of her passing. I had the pleasure of getting to know her over many years. Her son Tommy and I were buddies in Saint Philips , El Campo High, and Wharton County Junior College, and I stayed at the Drapela home many weekends during the 1960's and 70's. Mrs. Drapela took a liking to me and let me know early on that I was welcome in her home any time and as often as I wished. I felt right at home too, as I got well acquainted with Tommy's parents and ten siblings. I honestly think that if I had showed up with a bag of clothes and said I was moving in, that would have been okay with her- she was that welcoming!

Mrs. Drapela was the most amazing woman I've ever known. Every day she tackled a veritable mountain of laundry and cooked enough food to feed a platoon of hungry marines (she was a great cook, too). All the while, she was always smiling and laughing; I never saw her without that beaming smile of hers. She took time every day to interact with each of her kids and any house guest. She and her husband Charlie "Doc" Drapela always had an endless supply of interesting stories to tell.

Mrs. Drapela was already the busiest woman in town when, with the family still growing and her involvement with civic and church activities , she took on the job of County Commissioner after Doc Drapela passed away, and did a great job of that while continuing to fulfill the role of the family matron.

With all that going on in her life, whenever she spotted me at a wedding or funeral dinner she would recognize me even when she hadn't seen me for years (I had moved out of town) and call me over and catch up with up with me about what was going on in my life and her kids' lives –still taking an interest.

In conclusion, I can honestly say I have never known a more amazing human being. I was truly blessed to have known her. Make

no mistake, the El Campo community has lost someone very special indeed.

Sincerely,

Steven Wayne Netardus

Steven Wayne Netardus - April 02, 2019 at 09:12 PM



“ *Catherine Drapela was truly a remarkable woman. Her Spirit will live on! She has left a wonderful legacy for all.*

Carol Slaughter

Carol Slaughter - March 01, 2019 at 05:14 PM

MM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I met Catherine when I went through RCIA about 20 years ago and she always had a smile and a warm hug waiting for you. She will be missed. I am glad to have met her, she truly was a wonderful person. God bless you and your family during this difficult time.*



Melissa M. - February 27, 2019 at 09:25 PM

JF

“ *What a wonderful person. My favorite early memories of her driving her van around to get her family to all the places and activities they were involved in and would not hesitate to add a few more, always with a great attitude and usually a big smile. I know we will all miss her.*

Tommy and Susan Flanagin

John T Flanagin - February 27, 2019 at 01:00 PM

KW

“ Kenneth Walla lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela



Kenneth Walla - February 27, 2019 at 09:23 AM

DT

“ Mrs. Drapela was a true Blessing and a Gift from God.I consider it a privilege to have known her. She had such a genuine sweet loving and giving spirit. I will forever be so thankful for the many times that I witnessed the Spiritual comfort, love, kind words, peace and joy that she brought with her, as she ministered HOLY COMMUNION to both of my parents, Buck and Marie Kight. The room seemed to Light up when she entered. Mrs. Catherine Drapela, our prayers will always be with you... and your family. May you rest in peace.



Darlene Kight Taylor - February 27, 2019 at 08:40 AM

JR

“ Judy Merta Rohan lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela



Judy Merta Rohan - February 27, 2019 at 08:23 AM

BL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I have shared some interesting times with her as we shared our faith in some classes of study. She felt there was so much more to learn and we need that close relationship with our God and His Mother. Now she is with them. I hope that gives your comfort. Betty Kacal Leopold

Betty Leopold - February 27, 2019 at 01:23 AM

DZ

“ Diana Zabodyn lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela



Diana Zabodyn - February 27, 2019 at 12:22 AM

DB

“ David & Debbie Bubela lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela



David & Debbie Bubela - February 26, 2019 at 07:13 PM

KK

“ Kathy Koudela lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela



Kathy Koudela - February 26, 2019 at 03:32 PM

JC

“ *Jan & Gary Charbula lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Jan & Gary Charbula - February 26, 2019 at 12:46 PM

CR

“ *Cynthia Riha lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Cynthia Riha - February 26, 2019 at 02:52 AM

LU

“ *Lynell Ustynik lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Lynell Ustynik - February 25, 2019 at 08:09 PM

SA

“ *Shebra Adler lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Shebra Adler - February 25, 2019 at 07:21 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Catherine Matzke Drapela.*



February 25, 2019 at 05:51 PM



“ *From her loving cousins, Elray and Colleen Matzke purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Catherine Matzke Drapela.*



From her loving cousins, Elray and Colleen Matzke -
February 25, 2019 at 02:54 PM



“ *Andrea McCann lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Andrea McCann - February 25, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Catherine Matzke Drapela.*



February 25, 2019 at 11:52 AM

RH

“ *Such a sweet and positive Christian lady. She will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to the fine family she raised. God bless, Rita and John Hancock*

Rita Hancock - February 25, 2019 at 09:55 AM

DK

“ *Debbie Smith Krenek lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Debbie Smith Krenek - February 25, 2019 at 09:18 AM

VH

“ *Vickie Holub lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Vickie Holub - February 25, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Catherine Matzke Drapela.*



February 25, 2019 at 09:11 AM

JM

“ *Jane Matzke lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Jane Matzke - February 25, 2019 at 08:51 AM

SK

“ *Sandra Kaluza lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Sandra Kaluza - February 25, 2019 at 08:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Catherine Matzke Drapela.*



February 25, 2019 at 07:51 AM

EC

“ *Sympathy and Prayers to all of the Drapela Family. We are saddened at your loss. Kevin and Steven Mach Elaine Mach Cook*



Elaine Cook - February 25, 2019 at 12:23 AM

MS

“ I will never forget Mrs Drapela. She was so sweet to me as a newlywed. I met them through my job as a dispatcher for El Campo Police Dept and my husband knew them since he was a DPS officer. In fact we were married by Doc. I thought the world of them. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Mary Stell - February 24, 2019 at 11:31 PM

LK

“ What a wonderful lady! The earth won't be the same without Catherine Drapela! What a spiritual mentor at St. Philip's! Love Mrs. Drapela.

Lucinda Knebel - February 24, 2019 at 11:12 PM

KL

“ Kirk & Imelda Loos lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela



Kirk & Imelda Loos - February 24, 2019 at 11:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Catherine Matzke Drapela.



February 24, 2019 at 10:55 PM

DN

“ *My love and sympathy to all of you. Catherine was a great example of a Christian lady. Catherine truly lived up to the example of her Godmother, Sophia Engbrock Matzke, our grandmother- her love of family and her Faith. I will miss her dearly*

*My love to each of you,
Debbie Yahn Noack*

debbie noack - February 24, 2019 at 09:17 PM

PT

“ *Pam Turner lit a candle in memory of Catherine Matzke Drapela*



Pam Turner - February 24, 2019 at 07:53 PM

DC

“ *Mom (Josephine Knebel) and I are saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Drapela. A wonderful woman and role model. Touched so many lives*

Delores Cox - February 24, 2019 at 07:47 PM

AD

“ *Our most sincere sympathy with the passing of Mrs. Drapela. She will be greatly missed. May perpetual light shine upon her and may she rest in peace with the Lord.*

*Annie, Helen & Billy Dolezal
Palacios, TX*



Annie Dolezal - February 24, 2019 at 07:35 PM

DH

“ We will miss your mother. What a dear you had in your lives!!!!
Thank you for mothers like yours. She was a blessing to all of us
and a model for how to be a true Christian. She lived to serve all of
you and all of us too!!
Our love to you, Dot and Ellwood Hermansen

Dot Hermansen - February 24, 2019 at 07:23 PM

PD

“ Patricia Dybala lit a candle in memory of
Catherine Matzke Drapela



Patricia Dybala - February 24, 2019 at 07:02 PM