



## Diane Elizabeth Heath

June 27, 1936 - February 24, 2018

Diane was born in Mobridge, South Dakota on June 27, 1936. She spent her youth with her parents Skip and Barbara Starrett in California, and eventually in Houston, Texas.

She graduated from San Jacinto High School in Houston and attended one year of college at Brigham Young University in Provo Utah. She was married to Joe Harris and had a son, David McDonald. She was later married for 25 years to Edwin D. Heath, Jr., with whom she had five children: Stephen Starrett, Paul Eugene, Barbara Ann, Rachel Elizabeth and Matthew Dale. Diane had a busy life raising children, and working as a medical transcriptionist. She became a Certified Medical Transcriptionist, and eventually relocated from Dallas, Texas to Modesto, California to work for the American Association for Medical Transcription, the professional organization engaged in creation of educational and certification opportunities for medical transcriptionists. While there she wrote articles and columns for various professional organizations, as well as lecturing at annual meetings and developing the organization's resource library. After several years in California, Diane returned to Dallas and continued work as a transcriptionist while doing professional editing work and performing quality control for transcription services and acting as a resource for students training to become certified medical transcriptionists.

Near retirement, Diane relocated to Independence, Missouri where she was close to her daughter and three of her grandchildren. She remained in Independence until her death.

Throughout her adult life, and continuing during her time in Independence, she was very active in her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, where she was known for her service to others. Diane was known for regularly taking those who were unable to transport themselves to doctor and other important appointments, including treatments for medical issues. In this way, as well as many others, Diane served those around her with great compassion, and always made herself available to help others when needed. She was notorious by all who knew her for her great sense of humor, her huge heart and her willingness to serve. She was also well known for warm hugs that gave great strength and comfort to anyone who needed them. Especially important, Diane was known for her charming dog Maggie, who was a dear companion to her the past ten years. She was loved and will be missed by her five children, nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and many friends across the country that have treasured her. There

will be a graveside service at Restland Cemetery in Dallas Texas at 3:00 p.m. on March 3, 2018. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that friends consider donations to Wayside Waifs, an animal rescue/shelter and adoption organization; 3901 Martha Truman Road, Kansas City, MO 64137; [waysidewaifs.org](http://waysidewaifs.org)

# Comments

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“ Diane always delighted me when I saw her. She often lovingly referred to our height differences over a hug. I loved her humorous acceptance over things she couldn't change. She was such a huge support and encouragement to me when I was to be President of our church women's group. She had way more confidence in me than I did. I accepted the assignment on the condition that she would be my secretary...at a time she didn't really want to because her life was pretty full and she'd done it for so long! But she agreed with a smile. She got me through the first 6 months and I will always be grateful for her selfless, instructive, loving service to my insecure heart. She taught me about boundaries! I will always treasure my association with Diane. Heaven has one spunky, kind-hearted angel who has touched many lives with her selfless service. I lovingly refer to her as the taxi angel. Many women have benefitted from her willingness to help get them to important appointments. I love you Diane! Til we meet again...

**Terri Martinez** - March 08, 2018 at 05:25 PM

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“ We were blessed to have Diane in our Ward for several years. She was always a angel filled with love and service for others. She spent her all her time living for others. We loved her dearly. Please accept our sincere condolences to you and your family. Janice and Michael Hill

**Janice and Michael Hill** - March 07, 2018 at 07:59 PM

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“ Our deepest condolences to your family. Thanks for loaning your mother to us in Independence. We learned to love and respect her and her joyful ways. She dearly loves her family. I'm sure, like you, we will miss her until we meet again.

**Susan and Cliff Bryner** - March 03, 2018 at 03:53 PM

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“ I met Diane nine years ago although I felt I had known her my entire life. She has always been a loving example of patience, courage, service, and a loyal friend for those around her. I will miss her warm smile, hugs and the thoughtful advice she shared, which was always a welcomed gift. She enjoyed serving others in church and around her. And truly loved our savior Jesus Christ along with her children and family, of whom she spoke of often.

Diane will be greatly missed on earth. But I know she's rejoicing with her Father in Heaven and watching over her family and friends, until they can be together again. Rest well dear friend.

**Randolyn Banks** - March 03, 2018 at 01:04 PM

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“ Diane was always so full of love and had a beautiful smile for all around her! She reached out in the service with love to anyone who needed it. She truly followed Jesus Christ that way. I will miss her dearly! She made me feel important, happy and loved every time I saw her. I will miss her hugs and smiles! I look forward to seeing my dear friend again and getting one of those hugs in seeing that contagious smile. Until then I know heaven has a joyful angel watching over her family and loved ones! May you have peace and comfort at this time and always.

**Gina Wheeler** - March 02, 2018 at 08:49 AM

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“ I will miss her so very much. We were visiting teaching companions almost the entire time she was here. We clicked instantly. She liked to tell people I was the senior companion because I was two days older. She was so special to so many people. The whole ward will feel her loss Rest in peace my dear friend till we meet again.

**Suzie Watters** - February 28, 2018 at 09:58 PM

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“ I met your mom when she moved to Independence and we just “clicked”. Over the ten plus years we have laughed, cried, counseled together, rejoiced with each other and wept for each other’s pain. We were more sisters than friends and I treasure each memory and am trying hard to remember more. My life will have a big hole until I join her . I have learned courage and patience (though some wouldn’t notice) and her example of service is a standard set high. I cherish the trips, the puzzles, the dinners out, the holidays spent together and my girls adopted her as grandma and she never came up short. Then there were the times she supported me in serving in my calling when she didn’t have too. We tackled some pretty big stuff.I hope each of you realize that different as you are she loved you. She knew your choices weren’t necessarily her choices for you BUT she never let that keep her heart from loving. That is a true parent. Love with all the ups and downs. Each of you were a unique treasure to her. Give yourself a hug for making her proud, because she was.

**Wendy Box** - February 28, 2018 at 09:35 PM