



## Mary Helen "Mel" Matuszak

March 22, 2020

Mary Helen ("Mel") Matuszak passed away on Sunday, March 22, 2020, surrounded by her family. Mel was born Mary Helen Eaton in Claremore, Oklahoma on December 1, 1936 to Margaret and George Eaton. A long-time resident of Harper, Kansas, Mel attended Kansas State University and was a charter member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority there and won the national Miss College Football beauty contest in Berkeley, California. She graduated from Kansas State University in 1959 and shortly thereafter married the love of her life, Don Matuszak.

Mel chronicled her life in her third book, "Don't Write My Name In Ink - A Moving Story," detailing the travels and adventures living around the country. An English teacher, speech therapist, realtor, scout leader, author and most important, a loving wife and mother, she had a profound impact on all the lives she touched.

Mel was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Betty Ann and leaves behind her husband of 60 years, Don Matuszak and their two daughters, Jill Swain and Joelyn Shea and their respective families and a brother, Joel Bond Eaton.

Her family would like to thank those who took care of her in the short time in hospice -- in a time of grief, you made her smile.

Mel was a firm believer in giving of self, and helping others in need. Her family would ask that those who know her would do the same as a tribute to the contributions she made daily. Do a good deed, send in a donation to a charity, share a smile or kind word and think of Mel Matuszak. She will be missed by so very many people.

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Mel's passing. My Dad (Wally Frank) played basketball at K-state with Don and she and my mother (Lois) were lifelong friends. After my parent's both passed she would reach out and get in touch with me from time to time. I am a speech therapist as well and she sent me several books. I've heard so many stories about Don and Mel over the years I feel like they were a part of my life. May you all hold onto those special memories and know that you will be together with her again in Heaven.

Stephanie (Frank) Zink

**Stephanie Frank Zink** - February 16 at 03:31 PM



“ Hello dear Matuszak family. I am Stephanie's older sister, Kelly Shepard. We thought so much of your mom and dad and our parents just adored them. I know your dad must be hurting horribly, as our father did, when our mother passed. I pray that God is with you continually to bring comfort and peace.

**Kelly Shepard** - March 18 at 05:22 PM



“ Dear Don and Family,

Judy and I were so sorry to hear about Mel. Even though we haven't seen you guys or talked to you in quite awhile, we still remember Mel as that fun loving gal.

She was a dear friend & a kind, gentle woman who had a wonderful sense of humor and a ready smile. I will always remember Mel as the leader of the pack, especially at the Gamma Phi House. She would call me at West Stadium & tell me there was a homesick freshman at the house that hadn't had a date since coming to K-State & was wondering if I would call her & have a date with her. Of course, I did, thinking this was a one time thing. But as it worked out, this became a yearly thing 2 or 3 times a year. I always had fun on these dates & by the time I graduated, I knew most of the Gamma Phi girls.

Don, we all had some great times at K-State. We know words cannot really help you right now, but please know how very much we care & feel for you and your family in your loss.

Keeping you in our prayers.

Jack & Judy Marcoline

**Jack Marcoline** - June 13, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of Mel passing. I was at KSU along with Mel and Don and thought they were both terrific. She made the world a little brighter and my deepest sympathy to Don and her family

**Dr. Homer L. Williams, FAIA** - May 05, 2020 at 08:53 PM

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“ Mel was So intelligent, So energetic, and So much fun to be with. She gave so much to her friendships. I miss her.

**Eleanor Bell** - April 11, 2020 at 01:33 PM

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**Eleanor Bell** - April 11, 2020 at 01:33 PM

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“ Our condolences to your entire family. We know how much Mel was a part of your life. Now is the time to remember all the good times.

**Karen and Ed Matuszak** - March 28, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ To the family of Mel, please accept my condolences. I am saddened by Mel's passing and my thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family during this sad time. Mel, was a beautiful, smart, witty, caring and loving lady who always was so nice to me. I will always cherish the fun times at the Mart with Joelyn and Mel. We had many wonderful times talking whether it was during our trip on the way to the Mart or just when she was stopping by to visit Joelyn, Jim and the kids. I will truly miss Mel. My heart goes out to Coach and I will keep him in my prayers - Gwen Garrett

**Gwen Garrett** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Gwen Garrett** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ To many she was an educator, and author and a realtor, but to me she was just Mom. She was the one I called to spend the day shopping and the one who always could research whatever information I needed. She helped me at work, with my kids and helped me navigate difficult situations. I learned many lessons from her throughout my life. She approached each day with grace and poise and was kind to everyone she met. She was a great example to many and I'll miss her influence and presence. Rest in peace, Mom.

**Joelyn Shea** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have known Mel for over 60 years: my husband knew her for at least 26 years. We always tried to visit when we were in the area & always welcomed. Mel was a good wife & mother. She & my brother have always been a team. We both admired that. She will be sorely missed. Sure hope you are having coffee with our mothers!! Our sympathies to the entire family with hugs for all!  
Judy & Steve

**Judy & Steve Lindberg** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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Judy & Steve

**Judy & Steve Lindberg** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Steve & I have always admired the team that Mel & Don were. We live very far apart, but we made it a point of stopping in when we were in town. We were always welcomed.

Mel was in our family for over 60 years, so I would say we knew her pretty well! It wasn't always easy to find her & family because they moved so frequently! That was always handled with efficiency!

I received many recipes & advise from Mel. You will be sorely missed.

**Judy & Steve Lindberg** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Mel,

I did not know that you were ill.

I wish I got to see you at least one more time.

I am so sorry to hear this news.

You were wonderful person.

You were more like a mother to me. This is really sad.

Condolences to your family.

May God give them strength during this difficult time.

I will miss you.

Fondly,

Jasmina

**Jasmina Salcinovic-Spahic** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Jasmina Salcinovic-Spahic** - March 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am so grateful to have been able to grow up knowing my beautiful, loving, selfless grandmother. She is sorely missed. It is our job now to carry her light and spread her love to the world. We won't let you down. Love you Melma and Rest In Peace.

**Sydney Swain** - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Sydney Swain** - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ Melma was always kind and full of love, even at the end that great personality still came through. We all will miss her dearly.

**Zack Swain** - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Zack Swain** - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ My grandmother was everything and more when people think of the perfect grandparent. She was constantly concerned with what was new in my life, pushing me to be my best, and being there to tell me how proud she was of me. I know she's in heaven looking down on all of us now and someday we will see her again. She will be a voice I miss calling and miss even more when I walk into her house to hear her voice. Rest easy Melma and I can't wait to see you again.

**Cole Shea** - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ We will always remember Melma's kindness and real love for her family. She cared about her grandchildren and cheered for our successes. She will be missed but always with us.

**Zack Swain** - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ Shirley Henderson just told me about Mel and I wanted to send my sympathies. I remember your mom making us pancakes shaped like bunnies - she was so fun! Don and Mel were lifelong friends of my parents and such delightful people. I'm very sorry - losing your mom is so hard. And yes, you will be dialing her number on instinct for a long time!

Take care, Jill

**Jill Stehley Harrison** - March 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mel was always a very kind and loving person. Even to me, her son-in-law and very unworthy husband of Jill! We will always miss you and try to carry on your legacy of helping others.  
Love you Mel! Rest in Peace...

**Dan Swain** - March 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ Thank you for your love and kindness...you are a angel

**Tammy Yawn** - March 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ We so enjoyed knowing Mel and Don. Lots of love and humor over the years. K-State memories were only yesterday. Mel's enthusiasm energized everyone.

**Shirley and Joe Henderson** - March 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Shirley and Joe Henderson** - March 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ My mother was a talented and beautiful (inside and out) woman. And she was strong. Good people gravitated to her. On behalf of my family, we want all those good people who knew my mom to know that she cherished every friendship, every conversation and every new relationship, because those contacts made her whole.

She specifically did not want anyone to be sad that she was ill. She said she'd led a very good life. She would be so happy knowing that you all made someone else smile in her memory!

I will probably still call her number in the evenings and think of her when good news (or bad) needs to be shared, and laugh at some of the silliness our family had over the years. She and I believed that it was important to make sure to live our lives as if THIS was our heaven -- and in doing so, she created a beautiful world for us.

Thank you all for loving my mom.

**Jill Matuszak Swain** - March 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mel, you were beautiful on the inside and outside. How I looked forward to hearing from you. The girls and their families are your wonderful legacy. Don, we have never met but darling Mel made you known to all. May each of you wrap your arms around beautiful memories of Mel. Remembering her with love. Denny Huddle

**Denise Huddle** - March 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Denise Huddle** - March 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM