



Melanie Hanks Hensgens

December 5, 1961 - April 16, 2021

Funeral services will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. in Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist for Melanie Hanks Hensgens, 59, who died on Friday, April 16, 2021 at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette.

The family requests that visitation be observed in Martin & Castille's DOWNTOWN location on Sunday from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and will continue Monday at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist from 8:00 A.M. until time of services. A Rosary will be prayed by Brady LeBlanc on Sunday at 6:00PM in Martin & Castille Funeral Home. Entombment will be in St. John Mausoleum.

The Very Reverend Chester C. Arceneaux, V.F., Rector of Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, will conduct the funeral services. Concelebrants will be Reverend Andrew Schumacher, Parochial Vicar and Reverend Monsignor Charles J. Dubois.

For family members and friends who are unable to attend on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 10:00 AM, the service will be live-streamed to a Memorial Facebook Group dedicated to Melanie Hanks Hensgens. To join the group, click the link below and then "join group". The video will appear on this group at service time 10:00 A.M. You may also share memories, pictures and condolences to the family in this group.

Facebook link: www.facebook.com/groups/melaniehankshensgens/

Survivors include her beloved husband of 36 years, Karl Joseph Hensgens; two daughters, Paige Hensgens Hightower and her husband Thomas "Trey" R. Hightower III of Lafayette and Anna Katherine Hensgens of Nashville, TN; three grandsons, Thomas James, Joseph Anthony (twins) and Michael Hanks Hightower; sister-in-law, Julie LeGros Hanks; nieces, Tessie Hanks Navarre (Godchild), Tiffany Hanks Holmes and Tabitha Hanks; brother-in-law, Nicholas "Tony" Hensgens, Jr. and wife, Pam; sister-in-law, Stephanie Hensgens Berger and husband, Ronald; sister-in-law, Michelle C. Hensgens and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Irene LeBlanc Hanks and Anthony “Gummy” Hanks; brothers, Bryan Lynn Hanks and Hoyt Anthony Hanks; godmother, Sue LeBlanc Dugas, brother-in-law, Kenneth James Hensgens; maternal grandparents, Nobie Marie Henry LeBlanc and Oneal LeBlanc and paternal grandparents, Elia Courts Hanks and Nathaniel Hanks.

Melanie was born in Jennings, LA and graduated from Lake Arthur High School in 1980. In her early days, she spent many days helping at her parent’s famous restaurant, Nott’s Corner in Lake Arthur, LA. She attended McNeese State University and spent her working career as a legal assistant. Upon marriage, she and Karl raised their two girls in Lafayette, a community that holds a special place in her heart, where she was also a mother to many of their friends. She loved being involved in her children’s activities throughout their years at Cathedral-Carmel School and St. Thomas More Catholic High School. She provided delicious food for school friends and family, as well as her own. The saying was, if you need anything for a shower, party or event, “Call Me!” Her favorite hobbies included monogramming and sewing, especially for her grandsons, attending sporting events, cooking for others, especially her annual Christmas Eve seafood and chicken and sausage gumbos. As a friend, she was a true friend for life. Always there to support, listen and provide. She was a member of Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church where she stayed true to her faith and monogrammed each baptismal cloth for the parish. Over the years, numerous friendships were developed from Lake Arthur, Lafayette, and two special friends in Houston, TX, Cheryl Johnson and Debbie Brown. Though she had many enjoyments, her main passion in life was taking care of her three grandsons. Melanie will be deeply missed and memories of her and her beautiful heart will be cherished by all who knew her.

Pallbearers will be Thomas “Trey” R. Hightower III, Nicholas Anthony Hensgens III, Joseph Alvin Hensgens, Kyle Holmes, Kevin Berken and Dal Miller.

Honorary Pallbearers will be her three grandsons, Thomas James, Joseph Anthony and Michael Hanks Hightower, R.J. Dugas, Gayland LeBlanc, Nicholas “Tony” Hensgens, Jr. and Ronald Joseph Berger.

Memorial contributions can be made in Melanie Hanks Hensgens name to Cathedral-Carmel School, 848 St. John Street, Lafayette, LA 70501 and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, <<<http://www.wewontstop.org/>>>, 1 Music Circle South Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37203.

A heartfelt appreciation is extended by the Hensgens family to the physicians, nurses,

respiratory therapists and aids at Our Lady of Lourdes and AMG Hospitals for the love and compassion they provided, especially Doctors Frank Courmier and Justin Ardoin.

View the obituary and guestbook online at www.mourning.com

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

Cemetery

Events

St. John Mausoleum

914 St. John St.
Lafayette, LA, 70501

APR **Visitation** 03:00PM - 08:00PM

18

Martin & Castille Funeral Home - Downtown Location
330 St Landry St, Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

APR **Rosary** 06:00PM - 06:30PM

18

Martin & Castille Funeral Home - Downtown Location
330 St Landry St, Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

APR **Visitation** 08:00AM - 10:00AM

19

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

APR **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

19

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - April 18, 2021 at 02:38 PM



“ My prayers are with the Hensgen family. I knew Melanie as child and she was outgoing and vibrant person. My family and I always enjoy her company. She was a niece by marriage but a friend forever. Years has gone by and our life's sent us on separate paths but I will never forget the time we had together. I loved her dearly. Love Aunt Janie

Dorothy LaPoint - April 19, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ It's hard for me realize that Melanie is no longer with us. When Anna asked me to share a story about her, I thought more of the person she was and how she affected my life and the lifes of those around her. I feel like what I would have to say is probably what we all would say about her.

Melanie was the most kind and supportive person I have ever known. It was important to her to be there for you, and she always was — from the big things to the small things — loaning Ali the perfect dress for her school play, helping to alter Olivia's prom dress, showing me how to hang my Christmas door decorations.

Mel was a good confidante. She & I talked about and shared the events in our lifes — the good, the bad and the everyday ones. She always listened and heard what I had to say and also gave her true opinions, even when that might not be what you wanted to hear, and I tried to do the same for her.

Mel had true spirit and character. I admired her not only because her heart was so unselfish and giving, but also because she had the strength of spirit to stand her ground and not back down on her opinions and the things she believed in.

Some people just shine brighter than others. They touch our souls and stay in our hearts forever. The world needs more of those people and Melanie was truly one of them. Her passing is a great loss to us all.

Donna Moliere - April 19, 2021 at 11:43 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 19, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Carl, you & your family are in our prayers.
Take care and know of our love. Freddy &Janelle Deshotels

Freddy Deshotels - April 19, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 19, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy in your loss. Your family is in our prayers.

George Swift - April 19, 2021 at 09:17 AM



“ Karl,
We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with and your family.

Darryl and Kathy Bertrand
Lake Arthur

Kathy Bertrand - April 18, 2021 at 11:03 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 18, 2021 at 10:05 PM



“ Only me Mel a few times but she was easy to remember. Always smiling, and I feel like I know her better because Shannon my daughter, Mels hairdresser has told me so much about her. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Rest In Peace Mel.

Mott Olivier - April 18, 2021 at 09:10 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 18, 2021 at 07:02 PM



“ The Branch Family: Tara, Dottie, Jay & Beau purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



The Branch Family: Tara, Dottie, Jay & Beau - April 18, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ 149 files added to the album LifeTributes



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - April 18, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 18, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ My thoughts, prayers & condolences are with all of you at this time. Godspeed to Melanie.

Conrad A. Prejean - April 18, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 18, 2021 at 08:41 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to Karl and all of Melanie’s dear family. I worked with her at The Onebane Firm and she was deeply loved and admired by who knew her. May beautiful memories of Melanie’s time with you be of much consolation as you mourn her passing.

Mary Gilley - April 18, 2021 at 01:21 AM



“ Hugs and prayers Karl Anna Paige . I will miss you so much my sweet dear friend. Especially our long phone calls early in the mornings while you were on your morning walks and those evening calls while you were in the hospital. Love you Melaine

Tina Rogers - April 17, 2021 at 10:39 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 09:02 PM



“ Rest In Peace My Friend...My thoughts & prayers are with your Fly. In This Time Of Sorrow...Fly High Angel...God Bless All...



Cindy Conner - April 17, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ I know when she walked into the gates of heaven,her dad said I love you my Googie baby,this was his pet name for her,it breaks my heart that her grandsons will not remember her and the love she had for them,my prayers now continue for Karl,Paige and Anna,keep her memories alive so that they will know her through you.

Tracey Guidry - April 17, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 05:14 PM



“ Robert S. Tooke purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



Robert S. Tooke - April 17, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 03:32 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 03:02 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 02:58 PM



“ Karl, Paige, and Anna,
We are so sadden with this news. Our family will be in prayer for the repose of Melanie's soul and for your family. Trust in Jesus!

Kenny & Sue Chapman
Lake Arthur

Sue Chapman - April 17, 2021 at 02:48 PM



“ I was in Pure Barre with Melanie. I didn't know anyone my first day and she was so friendly and inclusive and made me so comfortable. I quickly realized that that was who she truly was, a very giving soul. I am praying for her family who are left behind and hope you will feel those prayers during your grief period.

Brenda Poche - April 17, 2021 at 02:42 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Melanie at Onebane. Still saw her occasionally for lunch with office crew. She will be missed. She was always so happy and such an outgoing person. My sympathies to Karl, Paige and Anna.

Jill Hollier - April 17, 2021 at 02:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melanie Hanks Hensgens.



April 17, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of her passing. She was a wonderful person and a great friend. My sympathy goes out to Mr Karl, Paige and Anna for the loss of your sweet mother. Know that I am there if you need. I will be praying for y'all.
Tina Menard

Tina Menard - April 17, 2021 at 01:29 PM