



Zan Cowan

April 25, 1935 - January 25, 2016

Mrs. Avis Ann (Zan) Cowan, age 80, passed away Monday, January 25, 2016 at her home in Conyers. At an early age her older brother, Jimmy, pronounced Avis Ann as 'Zan'. Henceforth, she has been called Zan by all who knew her. She was dearly loved and admired by her family and many friends. She demonstrated a sincere and caring nature through her outgoing personality and sense of humor. Zan is survived by her husband of 60 years, Edward L. Cowan, Jr. (Ed) who was a childhood friend and teenage sweetheart. They have two daughters, two sons, seven granddaughters and four great-grandchildren. Her surviving family: daughter, Sandra Zan Etheredge and husband, Rodney, daughters, Brittany Zan, Callie Caldwell and husband, Brian and daughter, Lucy, Lindsey Beavor and husband, Ryan and son, Owen; son, Eli Cowan and wife, Nancy and daughter, Arden Cowan and her sons, Elijah and Jacob; son, Joe Cowan and wife, Kelly and daughter, Mary Grace; daughter, Julie Howard and husband, John and daughters, Zan Kathryn and Anna; sister, Judy Smith and husband, Ronald, nieces, Tracy Young and Leigh Zan Wach and nephew, Brent Smith; sister-in-law, Paula Walker, wife of Zan's brother, Jimmy, who died of lymphoma at the early age of 47. Though Zan's sister, Judy, is 10 years younger, they were best friends, and constant companions. In 1984 they were happy to become next door neighbors on their family lake. They were known to have marathon shopping excursions, outings with their children, family trips as well as other happy adventures. She is survived by many cousins on both the Walker side and

Owens side of her family. She was preceded in death by her father, Eli M. Walker and her mother, Agnes Owens Walker. Her father was a businessman in Conyers and was the Rockdale House of Representatives member to the Georgia General Assembly at the time of his sudden death at age 46. Her mother and father were born and spent most of their lives in Rockdale County, as did their three children. Zan was always very active and 'on the go' - hence the nickname 'Zipper Zan' used by her grandfather and other family members. She was always involved in athletic activities. In her early years, she joined her brother and her future husband, Ed and other neighborhood boys and girls in playing baseball and roller skating on North Main Street where her home was located. At Conyers High School she played on the girls' basketball team and learned the game of tennis. Tennis was a big part of her life, playing on many ALTA and USTA teams and often with her husband. Zan had many other talents including sewing, quilting, knitting and keeping her family laughing at her many antics. Her grandchildren thought she was the 'coolest' grandmother around! After Zan and Ed married during his junior year at Georgia Tech, he and a friend bought a small boat and learned to water ski. Lake related activities and mountain hiking remained a large part of their lives. In 1973 an unanticipated event occurred that significantly changed the lives of Zan and Ed. They purchased Steele Hardware Company in Conyers in which Ed's father was a partner. Ed left his Atlanta based mechanical contracting career, and Zan returned to work while having four children in school. Together they worked to build and grow Cowan Ace Hardware Company. The business is now owned by their daughter, Sandra Etheredge and son, Joe Cowan. Zan will be missed by her husband, children, family and many friends. The many lives she touched and positively influenced are beyond measure. The family will receive friends Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 4 until 7 p.m. at the funeral home. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016 at First Baptist Church of Conyers, 2100 Highway 138 NE, Conyers, GA 30013. Following the memorial service, the family will receive friends in the church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial gift for

cancer research be made to Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Development Office, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30322 or by calling 404-712-4483. Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Service

JAN 29. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Conyers
2100 Highway 138 NE
Conyers, GA 30013

Tribute Wall



“ For the Cowan family some thoughts from few of Zan's tennis friends:

From Pam Berger

On or off the tennis courts I could always find joy and laughter in any conversation with her. Zan was a woman who was simply comfortable with who she was. I believe that God places people in our life that are an example of what He wants us all to be like. Zan was one of those people. I will always remember her for her positive nature, her beautiful smile, and genuine laugh. She loved life, she loved her family and she loved her friends. I was so fortunate to have known this remarkable woman. I will miss her very much!

From Muff McFarlin

"There is no doubt that Zan will be sorely missed by the Rockdale County tennis community both on and off the courts. I was shocked and crushed to hear of Zan's passing. She was well known among her tennis peers for her kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity and friendship as well as for her courage in facing her illness and her determination to fight it.

Although she was always a sought after partner for tennis matches because of her exceptional tennis skills, she was even more appreciated for her enjoyment of the sport and her uncomplaining nature. I have never heard her say a mean word about anyone or to anyone on or off the courts. Zan never even grumbled about her husband to any of us. Lucky Ed!

Although Zan was slightly older than some of us on the senior teams, we were always envious of her ability even at 79 to run across the court to reach a ball and her ability to put away a point. She also was a skilled bridge player and was always eager and willing to come to my rescue when I needed a sub for my bridge group. Everyone enjoyed her presence because of her friendliness as well as her playing ability. She always was humble about her skills in tennis and bridge, and she made those not as skilled feel comfortable and appreciated.

Zan was a winner in life and will be remembered for her enthusiasm

and fun-loving spirit. She was always ready for a new adventure and a new friendship. I will miss her!"

From Judy Martin

"Zan is probably the kindest human being you'll ever meet. She never has anything bad to say about anybody & always has a smile on her face. She was a GREAT tennis player, & I had the privilege of getting to play w/her (round robin & competitive matches) many times. You could never have a better partner than Zan. I've known Zan for over 20 yrs. We really have known ea. other longer than that, because we learned that her daughter, Julie, competed in gymnastics @ The Academy of Sports, the same time my daughters, Lori & Lisa were there. It makes me so sad to think we're not going to have Zan w/us on this earth, but I'm sure she'll be joining her other tennis friends we've lost in the last few years (Betty, Karen, Geraldine & there are probably many others). What a reunion that will be!!"

From Jo Bouchillion

One of my favorite memories of Zan was when I was playing opposite her in Doubles. She made one of her famous wind up down the line shots and in my attempt to return her shot; my favorite racket frame broke in two... She felt really bad...

Quick wit ...

One day a few years back she came to the court and we were partners this time... She said " Guess what they are selling at the store (meaning Cowan's, of course!) now? I said I give up, what? She said "CANDY!"

Pamela Berger - February 03, 2016 at 08:53 AM

RP

“ Dear Sandra, wishing you and all of your family peace, and the joy of wonderful memories. Rebecca Rogers Prevost

Rebecca Rogers Prevost - January 30, 2016 at 07:03 AM

JR

“ Ed and Family, So sorry to hear of Zan's passing, just heard today. We shared so many good times on the tennis court, I will remember and cherish those times forever, She was a very special lady.

Jane Roark

Jane Roark - January 29, 2016 at 02:30 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Zan Cowan.



January 28, 2016 at 11:35 PM

MH

“ We are sad to hear of the loss of Zan! She was one of the sweetest women we have ever known. She was always happy and sweet when she would come to our tennis store. All of you family members are very special. We will be praying for strength and peace for you during this difficult time!

Mark and Kim Howell - January 28, 2016 at 07:14 PM

CB

“ I remember that while Judy and I were playing in the Walker house, Zan would do a handstand and walk all over the house. She was a lovely, dynamic lady and a friend to all.

Carol Bird Buhler

Carol Bird Buhler - January 28, 2016 at 01:02 PM

MF

“ *Michael & Lyndsie Caldwell and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Zan Cowan.*



Michael & Lyndsie Caldwell and Family - January 28, 2016 at 11:25 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Zan Cowan.*



January 28, 2016 at 11:17 AM

LS

“ *Joe, Kelly and Mary Grace, our thoughts are with you in your time of loss. Wishing you strength and resources.
With love and sympathy from Robert, Lindsay and Kate Maher*

Lindsay Stirling - January 28, 2016 at 08:18 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Zan Cowan.*



January 27, 2016 at 05:55 PM

LF

“ Please accept our thoughts and prayers and sympathy for the loss of your wife Zan....We'd seen her at Dr. Carter's office once and spoke to her briefly.

Larry and Loretta Flowers
Conyers, GA

larry flowers - January 27, 2016 at 02:24 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Zan Cowan.



January 27, 2016 at 11:32 AM

TA

“ Sandra and family; I am so sorry to hear about Zans passing. Thoughts and prayers are with you all. Tammey (Etheredge).

Tammey - January 26, 2016 at 08:38 PM

CR

“ Zan was a beautiful lady, both outside and inside. When I first met her, playing tennis, she was friendly and funny. Yes, she could play a mean game of tennis, but was always telling others how good they were playing. She never met a stranger, and she was kind and caring to all of us. Heaven is smiling today because of such a precious angel that has been sent there.

Carolyn Redfearn - January 26, 2016 at 06:40 PM

BD

“ I love you so much Ed, Julie, Joe, Sandra, And Eli. You are in my thoughts and prayers. You are family to me, and Zan was my second mom. I am sure you know I called her "Momma Zan." I have so many wonderful memories of Zan. The one I remember the most is when Zan water skied with me. We skied side by side. Her sense of humor was amazing, and she made me laugh everytime I was with her. I love you, "Momma Zan." I will miss you so much!

Love,
Becky Davidson

Becky Davidson - January 26, 2016 at 06:23 PM

KB

What a wonderful lady. Her love and devotion is evident throughout her family. How wonderful that she was witness to so many joyful events this year. Our hearts ache for your loss Peace to you all.

karen beavor - January 26, 2016 at 08:53 PM

LE

Oh Sandra I am so very sorry to hear this. I have so many fond memories of playing tennis with Zan over the years. She always kept me laughing.

Linda Edwards

Linda Edwards - January 29, 2016 at 08:28 AM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Zan Cowan.



January 26, 2016 at 01:52 PM

DH

“ *Im so glad to have known and loved Zan for the past 30 years. She was a wonderful, smart and talented person and friend to so many. She had a great influence on many people because of her great sense of humor and personality. She was a very humble, loving person who had a marvelous zest for life. What a great legacy she leaves behind,
she will be missed!
Henry and Dot Hine*

Dot Hine - January 26, 2016 at 12:07 PM