

PATRICIA ANN WALKUP

Patricia Ann Walkup, 59, of San Francisco, CA, passed away on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, after a long stay in the hospital. Patricia, daughter of Frances and Dayton Walkup, was born and raised in Kilgore. She graduated from Kilgore High School in 1964, and received her Bachelor's Degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX, in 1968. She taught public school briefly in Victoria, TX, then moved to San Francisco, CA. She was employed by Allis-Chalmers and Wells Fargo Bank. She also was a grant-writer for Youthbuild, a national non-profit organization that assists young people in completing their education and finding employment.

In the early 1990s Patricia founded the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association in San Francisco. A tireless community activist, she worked persistently to make the Hayes Valley District a safe place to live, as it was a haven for crime. She organized community walks with police officers. After damage to the Central Freeway during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, Patricia lobbied to replace the Freeway in her district with a landscaped, tree-lined boulevard. Today, the beautiful Octavia Blvd. replaces the Freeway, is lined with palm trees and small shops, and ends in a neatly-groomed public park. Plans are pending to name the park after Patricia. Her excellent civic work over many years has been recognized by the Mayor and the City of San Francisco with many awards, including "Patricia Walkup Day". In 1995, Patricia was also commissioned by Texas Governor George W. Bush, into "The Yellow Rose of Texas", an honor society reserved for women from Texas who have made an exceptional difference.

Patricia is preceded in death by her parents, Frances and Dayton Walkup of Kilgore. She is survived by her brother, Lee Walkup of Cheshire, CT; cousins Martha Goodson Libby of Colorado, Rayburn Goodson of Georgia, Sonny Stallings of greater Kilgore; step-sisters Luanne Squier Samuel of Allen, Cheryl Squier Rosson of Marble Falls, Peggy Squier Hembree of Tyler; step-brother Richard Squier of Texas City.

No formal memorial service will be held in Kilgore. A public memorial is being planned in San Francisco.