

McKnight, Jamea

Jamea McKnight, 48, of Saginaw, passed into eternal rest Thursday, March 20, 2008 at her home in Saginaw. She had been ill for several years.

She was born at Ft. Campbell, Ky. into a military family. As an "Army Brat," and Army wife, she lived all over the world.

Despite attending four high schools in four years, Jamea earned four letters as a cheerleader, as well as letters in basketball and track. Along the way, she set records at a county track meet, and was selected as JC Junior Miss, Homecoming Queen, Military Sweetheart, and a number of other honors. She excelled in languages and was the editor of the school literary paper and was a published poet. She was a girl scout, earning the highest honor at the time and in Europe was involved in explorer scouts, serving as president. After her two marriages, and later divorces, she worked hard at a variety of jobs to provide for her dearly loved daughter, Brandea. In later life, she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and for the last two years suffered from guillain-barré syndrome and a host of many other severe health problems. In light of these many crippling illnesses, Jamea never lost her persevering will to endure and maintained her independence until at long last, her poor health took over her body, but not her spirit. Jamea's everlasting optimism and ability to humor others was never defeated in her battles with her health, and for that, her family is eternally grateful.

Jamea is survived by her daughter, Brandea Michelle Fritz; son-in-law, Arnold Fritz; grandchildren, Joseph, Cassidy and Arnold Jr. of Elkton; her parents, Ret. Col. and Mrs. James G. McKnight of Kingwood, Texas; her brother, Lt. Col. Lee McKnight; sister-in-law, Maureen; and nephew, Michael of Fort Sam Houston, Texas; as well as a host of relatives, friends and her former husbands, Michael Sieradzki and Gordon Dowrey Jr.

Jamea was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Earl and Jean Roberson of Pottsboro, Texas, and paternal grandparents, James and Bonnie McKnight of Wills Point, Texas. She will be laid to rest at her favorite place on earth, the shores of Lake Texoma, Texas, next to her MeMom. We should all be happy that she is at last free of pain and at peace.

Jamea's family would like to give a special heart felt thanks to Jamea's caregiver, Annabelle, for all the devoted service as a caregiver.