In Memoriam
By Nicki Keele

Kate Kisner Cushing

Kate Cushing, daughter of William Hugh Kisner and Alice (Martin) Kisner, was born February 7, 1921 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and departed this life January 7, 2014 at age 92. As an 8 year old and the youngest of 6 children, she enjoyed roller skating on the family’s tennis court, not realizing the importance of tennis in her future. A graduate of Northeastern State University in 1941, she began teaching and coaching in Tulsa in 1946 where she taught at Holland Hall, the University of Tulsa, Benedictine Heights College and Bishop Kelley. She retired from teaching after a 49 year career, 28 of those years at Monte Cassino where she taught Physical Education, served as Dean of Girls, cheerleader sponsor and tennis coach. Through her 70th year she continued to both teach and coach tennis. She was the Oklahoma representative for education and recreational tennis for the Missouri Valley Tennis Association, collecting thousands of donated racquets and tennis balls for distribution and encouragement of tennis as a lifetime sport.

In 1996 her dedication to tennis was recognized by the Missouri Valley Section of the USTA as she was inducted into their Hall of Fame. She again retired at age 82 as Secretary-Treasurer of the Oklahoma Tennis Coaches Association who honored her with induction into the Oklahoma High School Tennis Coaches’ Hall of Fame. With patience, compassion and commitment she introduced tennis to countless students as a lifetime adventure. Whether she was enjoying time with family, friends or coaching on the tennis court, she lived her life with boundless energy, enthusiasm, dedication and fairness. She will long be remembered and greatly missed. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Ronald Ekey and John Cushing and by her grandson, Devin DeJarnette. She is survived by her daughter Ronda DeJarnette, husband Don, Augusta GA; son Mike Cushing, Corvallis, OR; son Tim Cushing, wife Terri, Stillwater, OK; grandchildren: Darcy Kate Phelps, husband Mike, Augusta GA; Doug DeJarnette, wife Liza, Tulsa, OK; Tyler Cushing, Edmond, OK; Trey Cushing, Stillwater, OK; great grandchildren: John DeJarnette, Hadley Kate DeJarnette, Audrey Kate Phelps, Lydia DeJarnette and Livia DeJarnette. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Memory of Kate Cushing for the Endowed Scholarship Fund at Monte Cassino School, 2206 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa OK 74114, attention: Development Office.

*Obit was from Freeman Harris website*