



## WANDA LUQUETTE JANUARY 27, 1928—JANUARY 2, 2024

As part of the Babe Ruth family, we have many opportunities to spend time with some very special people whose friendship truly changes our lives for the better. For many of us involved with Babe Ruth League, Inc., it is with great sadness that we write about the passing of one of those dear friends - **Wanda Luquette**.

Wanda Luquette passed away on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at Abbeville, Louisiana General Hospital.

Wanda was the loving wife of the late Irby Luquette. Irby gave 60+ years of dedicated volunteer service to Babe Ruth League. His love for the games of baseball, especially youth baseball, afforded him the opportunity to coach, mentor, and shape many young boys through his roles as coach, umpire, league official, State Commissioner, Regional Commissioner, Tournament Director, World Series consultant, and a regular observer at Babe Ruth games played throughout the state of Louisiana. Irby was recognized both locally and nationally for his contributions to youth baseball with a ball field named after him in Abbeville, and induction into the Babe Ruth League International Hall of Fame. *(The Irby Luquette Endowed Annual Scholarship was established in 2014 by Luquette's son, Gary Luquette to provide college tuition to underprivileged Babe Ruth grads from the Southwest Region who exemplify the character and work ethic that Irby exemplified himself.)*

Wanda was Irby's biggest supporter as she believed in his passion for Babe Ruth Baseball and the positive impact it had on the young participants. If ever there was a "First Lady" of Abbeville, it was Wanda Luquette.

Irby and Wanda met at school and began their life together in 1947 in Grosse Isle, Louisiana, before settling into Abbeville, where they lived the rest of their lives together. In their 70 years together, they raised 6 children, Ronnie, Cynthia, Karen, Gary, Anne, and Mary. The family was raised in a modest upbringing, however Wanda ensured they always had everything they needed. Besides her love for her family and Babe Ruth League, Inc., Wanda's hobbies included working in her yard and cooking. She had a passion for pulling weeds and raking leaves. She spent many years working in retail and loved interacting with customers.

Wanda will be fondly remembered by her family for being accepting and for her wonderful cooking. Wanda cooked for her family every Sunday, being so welcoming of her children's spouses, accepting of everyone as they are and her passion for life, caring and service of others. She cared for and welcomed all her children's friends, sharing her love and cooking with all of them as well. She had such deep relationships with her children, grand (and great-grand) children and her friends. She never went any place where she didn't know someone and stopped to ask about how they and their families were doing.

She always put others' needs ahead of her own and until the day she died, she continued to pursue peace and harmony in the family. She made sure they always had food to eat (there were always pretzels, orange slices, chocolate, and muffins on her countertop and even a cup of Café Francais). She believed that showing her family how much she loved them through her actions, selfless behaviors, acceptance, and words, they would be a much stronger and loving family. Her family all knew that her love and caring was unconditional, and she served as such.

Wanda was blessed with a long life and was 25 days short of 96 years old when she died. She was surrounded by family when she died.

