



Avis Franke Halbert

April 1, 1927 - December 3, 2021

Graveside services for Avis Franke Halbert, 94, of Flint, TX will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the Kilgore City Cemetery with Rev. David Brasher from Bullard United Methodist Church officiating. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 from 5-7 pm at Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Avis passed away in Flint, TX on December 3, 2021. She was born April 1, 1927 in Orange Field, TX to Lee Andrew and Mundina Kretzchmar Franke. Avis graduated from Kilgore High School in 1945. She attended Texas State College for Women in Denton and graduated from The University of Texas in Austin in 1949. She married Bill Halbert on June 5, 1951. They were married for 68 years.

Avis was the epitome of an Air Force wife and traveled the world with Bill during his USAF career. They made lifelong friends at every base and Avis eagerly became a faithful volunteer. Whether it was serving as a docent at the Sophienburg Museum or offering newcomers assistance at the Air Force Base Family Services offices, she never met a stranger. Her Methodist Church Circle programs will be remembered by all who heard them. Together, Bill and Avis raised three daughters and always made sure their girls knew Texas was home. Upon Bill's retirement, they settled in New Braunfels, TX. Avis also had a gift of words and was always quick to send a card of encouragement to her

many friends. She was a true leader and inspiration to all who met her.

Avis was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; her parents, Lee and Mundina Franke; and her sister, Ruby Lee Kilgore. She is survived by her three daughters, Mundina O'Driscoll and husband Danny of Batesburg, SC, Cindy Cisco and husband Rick of Baytown, TX, and Rebecca Mohr and husband David of Tyler, TX; grandchildren, Lori Alexander of Mont Belvieu, TX, Jill Moore and husband Jared of Huffman, TX, Colleen Morgan and husband Andrew of Batesburg, SC, Meredith Mohr of Houston, TX, Kate Pinkston and husband Michael of Nampa, ID, and Joseph Mohr of College Station, TX; and great-grandchildren, Kaley and Madison Alexander, Colt and Case Moore, and Audrey Pinkston.

Pallbearers will be Rick Cisco, David Mohr, Joseph Mohr, Jared Moore, Cliff Halbert and Mike Garrett. Honorary Pallbearers will be Danny O'Driscoll, Andrew Morgan and Michael Pinkston.

If desired, memorials may be made to Bullard United Methodist Church, 204 Rather St, Bullard, TX 75757 or to any children's charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Graveside Service

DEC 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kilgore City Cemetery
200 Memorial St.
Kilgore, TX 75662

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Avis Franke Halbert



Stewart Family Funeral Home - December 07, 2021 at 05:19 PM

PE

She was and always beautiful to me will miss her Loved her so much

Pat Edwin - December 12, 2021 at 02:18 PM

RM

Thank you Pat. You are such a special part of our family. Please keep in touch!

Rebecca Mohr - December 15, 2021 at 03:37 PM

“ A 40-year friendship was begun when the Downs family was assigned to Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, NM at the same time the Halbert family arrived. We were very nervous to learn that we would be living next door to “The Colonel and the Colonel’s wife” - after all, he was my husband’s commanding officer, and what if his wife was the critical type? And what if our kids annoyed them? To my relief, Avis could not have been more welcoming, friendly, and down-to-earth. She was the first Texan I’d ever met and I loved her drawl and funny Texas sayings. Instead of being annoyed by our kids, Avis was soon using her fabric scraps to sew little A-line dresses with appliqué details for our two-year-old. During our years as neighbors we shared life stories over many cups of tea, and when it came time for us to move on, we were beyond excited to learn we would be almost neighbors again, as the Halberts were going to New Braunfels and we were heading to San Antonio.

During our years in Texas, Avis and I met regularly for lunch at Olga’s Greek cafe where we always ordered the Spanakopita (Greek Spinach Pie). Avis had a great intellectual curiosity and we discussed everything from parenting to politics and relationships to religion. After leaving Olga’s we often went shopping....this was a time when Avis’ grandchildren were arriving, and we were always on the lookout for pure cotton baby things. No synthetic fabrics would touch her sweet grandchildren! Sometimes we looked for stocking stuffers for the girls which would relate to the theme of the year, such as “beach” or “birds”.

On one occasion Avis invited us to lunch, along with our daughter, and our son and his wife. Driving to New Braunfels from San Antonio, the men in the car were worrying about the eating at “the Colonel’s” house ...What if the food was something fancy? What if they spilled or used the wrong fork? But when we arrived, they were relieved and delighted to find that the menu was “Make Your Own Sandwiches” from an array of the most delicious meats, cheeses and trimmings they had ever seen. Avis became their favorite hostess after that! Twenty-five years later our son happened to drive

past the turn to the Halbert's old house and remarked, "That's where we had those great sandwiches".

After we moved to California and Avis and Bill moved to Flint, our friendship continued via telephone calls and letters, always full of stories of the trials and triumphs of our kids, grandkids, and in her case, great grandkids. Avis took a sincere interest in my two granddaughters and for years sent them Christmas packages of wonderful little items that could have been selected only by a mom of girls - she knew everything little girls like, especially assorted boxes of many sizes and shapes for stashing treasures.

Avis was often described as sweet but she was also sharp! I was so impressed by Avis' intellect and logic. Not only was she a wonderful writer, she was also good with the mysterious world of math: numbers and accounting! At one point in our correspondence she described spending months helping a newly widowed friend straighten out her disastrous finances, and I asked her to put me on her list next!

As the years rolled by, both Avis and I began to have trouble hearing, so phone calls gave way to just letters, but those letters were extra special. About once a month Avis would send a big manila envelope packed with a curated collection of articles and clippings from newspapers, magazines, and catalogs on topics she knew I would enjoy....she often sent book reviews and author notes, as well as funny and uplifting stories.

Avis was a truly exceptional woman and a dear friend who made a difference in my life. I will miss her so.

Lynne Downs - December 12, 2021 at 02:35 PM

RM

Thank you Lynne for sharing such touching memories! She loved you so much!

Rebecca Mohr - December 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM

ST

“ I loved looking at all the pictures! Avis was a true beauty inside and out all her life. It was an honor to be her friend. Sarah Thompson, New Braunfels

Sarah Thompson - December 09, 2021 at 10:39 AM

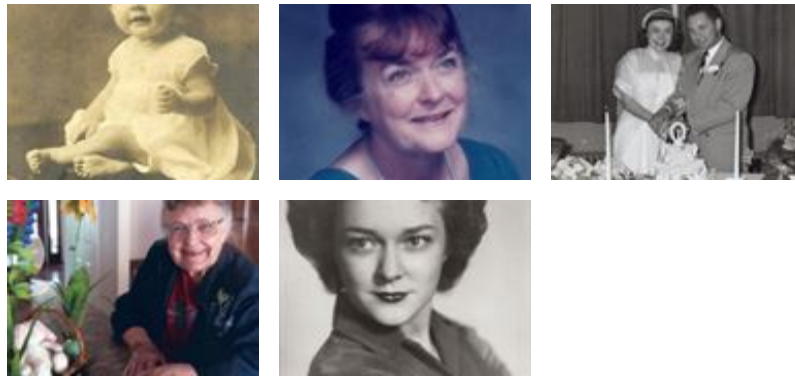
RM

Thank you Sarah for continuing to keep her in the loop with the ladies of the Mary Circle! She loved that group!

Rebecca Mohr - December 15, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ 37 files added to the album LifeTributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - December 07, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Avis Franke Halbert.



December 07, 2021 at 11:32 AM

LB

“ Love, Cheryl, Jimmy, Melissa, Brian purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Avis Franke Halbert.



Love, Cheryl, Jimmy, Melissa, Brian - December 06, 2021 at 10:34 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Avis Franke Halbert.



December 06, 2021 at 05:58 PM