



Estelle Jones Keeling

September 29, 1914 - May 23, 2014

“...Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing...and when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb....and when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.” ---The Prophet- Kahil Gibran

As death is the gateway into our Creator's presence, Estelle Jones Keeling was embraced by the arms of her Savior and reunited with her eternal family and beloved friends on Friday, May 23, 2014.

Funeral services celebrating the life of Mrs Keeling, 99, are scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 2:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, Tyler, with Dr John H Beard and Rev Ron Moore officiating. Interment will follow in Edom, her birthplace.

Our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and dear friend to many, met her Lord, as she lived, with dignity, courage, and peace within her heart. The abundant depth of her Christian principles were readily seen in her love of family and her bountiful gift of friendship for all within her grasp. Her astute wisdom , gentle grace, unselfish loyalty and patient sense of humor were constant sources of encouragement and inspiration.

It was her kindness, generosity and sheer love of life which served as her guiding beacon. Conversely, it was her stamina in the throes and shadows of her sorrows which anchored her sensitivity and empathy in helping those in need. Moreover, she touched the lives of so many with her radiant spirit and compassionate words of understanding and encouragement. Always available

for her friends, dedicated to her children, adored her grandchildren and beloved extended family, she leaves a legacy of fond and eternal memories with all she embraced.

Mrs Keeling was the fifth of seven children born September 29, 1914 to Martin and Lockey Boyd Jones of Edom. She lived throughout her lifetime in loving devotion among her three brothers and three sisters. She was preceded in death by her parents, infant daughter, Hazel Dell Gandy; husband of five years, Wayne Gandy; husband of fifty years, Horace Keeling; grandson, Keith Keeling; granddaughter, Teresa Gandy Leandro; son, Billy James Gandy; step-son, Bill Keeling and her six cherished siblings, Ava Nell Linthicum, Valley Lee Moore, Inez Robinson, Kernon "KG" Jones, Nolen "Buddy" Jones, and Rev. Bill "WF" Jones .

Her zest for life and passionate inspiration will remain in the hearts of her surviving family and multitude of friends. She is survived by her son, Robert Keeling, of Tyler previously of Carrollton; granddaughters, Vicki Olliff and husband David of Whitehouse and Kandis Schernaidre and husband, John of Shreveport.

"MeMaw's" nurturing compassion was eagerly shared among her seven great grandchildren, Lisa Betts, April Aldredge, Chris Smith, Brandy Smith, Gabrielle Leandro, Steve Leandro and Kevin Olliff and her four great-great grandchildren, Trinity Betts, Tori Betts, Christian Smith, and Jackson Aldredge.

Mrs. Keeling's infectious smile, optimistic nature, compassion, and sense of humor endeared her to many. Prior to her membership in Westwood Baptist Church, she served as Nursery Coordinator at Calvary Baptist. In addition, Estelle served as the Site Manager for the initial opening of the Garden Valley Senior Nutrition Center. After five years in that leadership capacity, she transferred from the Tyler Meals on Wheels program to the Senior Activity Center in Whitehouse. There she served three years as the Director of Special Programs and Activities. She then retired to become a full time

caregiver at home for her beloved husband prior to his death Christmas, 1988.

Serving as Pall Bearers: Tom Crawford, C L Gideon, Ken Helm, Jerry Jernigan, Lenny Myers, and Bob Stagner

Honorary Pall Bearers: James Cavender, David Beard MD, Bill Boyd, Mack Boyd, Don Gray, William Hobbs MD, Jerry Johnson, Nolen Jones, Joe Lisbony, Wes Linthicum, Mike Powell, Don Reynolds, Lee Ridenour MD, Terry Thedford and Mark Wyatt.

Visitation will be this evening, Wednesday, May 28, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, Tyler, Texas

“ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”---Revelation 21:4 ---

Cemetery Details

Edom Cemetery

8079 FM 279
Edom, TX 75754

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

MAY 29. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Estelle Jones Keeling.*



May 27, 2014 at 08:18 AM



“ *Girlie Jack Boyd Harris and Shirley Mac Boyd purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Estelle Jones Keeling.*



Girlie Jack Boyd Harris and Shirley Mac Boyd - May 26, 2014
at 06:03 PM



“ *Remember visiting Aunt Estelle as a young child many times and how wonderful she was to be around! Know she was so very loved by many and will certainly be missed! Her arrival into heaven and blessed memory is to be celebrated!*

*Love,
Whitney Cavender Edwards*

Whitney Cavender Edwards - May 25, 2014 at 07:55 AM

VO

“ Vicki Olliff purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Estelle Jones Keeling.



Vicki Olliff - May 24, 2014 at 12:01 PM

VO

“ I was raised by my grandmother starting at the age of five years old. She was more of a mother to me than a grandmother. She had so much love in her heart for her children, grandchildren and great great grandchildren. This woman went thru so much tragedy in her life but you would have never known it to be around her. Her faith in God kept her going and the love of her family and friends. She has now gone to be with the Lord and her other family that she has lost throughout all the years. She will see her precious baby girl, her spouses, children, grandchildren, siblings and dear friends. I will forever be so grateful to this woman for the sacrifices she made to raise me and my sister. Never once did she complain. I will miss her very much but know she is in a better place.

Love you.

Vicki

Vicki Olliff - May 24, 2014 at 11:52 AM

LB

“ God bless my sweet great grandmother, Memaw. I love you so much and am so thankful to have you as my grandmother. Thanks for all the weekends spent together, the Christmas Eve's we shared, the Thanksgiving cake you bake for me specifically and all the times you went out of your way to do things for me. I am grateful for every lesson you taught me and will never forget them. God has now welcomed you into his kingdom, reuniting you with those who've gone before and giving you a peaceful eternal life that is finally pain free. I will miss you always.

Lisa Betts - May 24, 2014 at 11:20 AM