



Jean Samford

August 16, 1922 - December 1, 2006

Graveside services for Jean Elizabeth Samford, 84, of Tyler, will be held on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 11:00 AM at Rose Hill Cemetery. The Rev Harrison M. McLeod will be officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mrs. Samford passed away Friday, December 1, 2006 at her home in Tyler. She was born August 16, 1922 in Tyler to the late J. G. and Thelma (Cooper) Niblack. She was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Tyler and an active member of the Republican Party. She dedicated over 65 years to the Tyler Civic Theatre where she shared her talents both on and off stage. She served on the Tyler Civic Theatre Board of Directors since 1968. She volunteered on many committees throughout the years, gave presentations to local civic clubs on the history of the theatre, and influenced others to participate in the life of the theatre. Jean was a graduate of Tyler High School and attended Texas College of the Mines in El Paso. She married her husband, Mack Samford, in 1946 and they lived happily together for 32 years until his death in 1978. Jean is survived by her loving family including her sister, Sally Wheat of Las Cruces, N.M.; daughter, Sunday Hooper and husband Raymon of Tyler; daughter, Sara Dean and husband Gary of Tyler; grandson, Justin Hooper and wife Kate of Whitehouse; grandson, Jonathan Hooper and wife Lori of Frisco; granddaughters, Haleigh Hooper and Caitlin Dean both of Tyler; great grandson, Brantley Jon Hooper of Whitehouse; niece, Jean Gregory of Oak Ridge, TN; niece, Cathy Kamat of Las Cruces, N.M.; niece, Jodie Dornak of Houston; niece, Kathy Samford of Houston;

great nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 4:00-6:00PM Sunday, December 3, 2006, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., Tyler, Texas 75703. Memorials in honor of Jean Elizabeth Samford may be made to the Rogers Children's Theatre, in care of Tyler Civic Theatre; 400 Rose Park Dr. Tyler, TX 75702. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

JR

“ My sincere condolences to Jean's family. In 1984, I had the pleasure of being in a play at the Civic Theatre with Jean. I was always so impressed with her wit and charm, as she was a very warm person. We were in the play called, "The Orphans", and there was a scene where Jean stood at the top of the stairs at the theatre, and trying to convince a much younger man to not take hers and her sister's money. She raised her hands to the ceiling and yelled, "Take me, just take me now". Every night we had to just sit and wait for the audience to calm down. Many of the patrons, of course, knew Jean. Every night, a solid roar that was so much fun to experience. Although I was only with the Civic Theater for about a year and a half, I will always cherish those memories of Jean Samford. My regards to the family.

Jeff Ragan - December 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ I have been out of town and was shocked to see your mom's obituary in the paper. I didn't realize she had been sick.

I have known and admired Jean for many years and simply LOVED seeing her in the plays at TCT. She was a wonderful, natural actress and a true lady. I will miss her.

My prayers are with you.

Love,

Annette Lackland

Annette Lackland - December 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Sunday, Sara, and family, I am truly sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jessica Pontiff - December 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Our thoughts & prayers are with you & yours during this time. Mrs. Samford was a super lady and she will be missed. We love you guys and we're here for you.

Bill & Lynn McGinnis - December 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Gary and Sara - Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. We love you guys.

Erik & Melinda Switzer - December 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM