



Lillie Belle Etter

November 25, 1915 - March 6, 2016

Lillie Belle Beard Etter, cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at the age of 100.

Visitation with the family is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy. in Tyler. A private burial is scheduled on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at Rose Hill Cemetery, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

In 1974, Lillie Belle was preceded in death by husband, Craven Beard and in 1995 by husband, Eugene Etter. Also preceding her in death were her parents, her beloved step-mother, a sister and five brothers.

She is survived by her devoted son and daughter, C. W. Beard and Bonnie Beard Holland; adored grandson, Chip Entz and wife Dina; great-grandchildren, Andrew Entz, Ashley Entz Daab and husband Aaron and sister, Mary Wright Adams.

Music – especially organ – was always an important part of Lillie Belle's life, and she pursued this passion at Baylor. For many years, she served as an organist at the First Baptist Church in Tyler, played the organ for special church services of many other faiths, and served as an organist at Lloyd James Funeral Home. Her love of music guided her to become a charter member of Tyler's Music Coterie.

When her father passed away, Lillie Belle and step-mother, Golden Wright, opened a women's clothing store named Broadway Jr. Shop that grew to

become Broadway Jr. and Sr., and in 1963 saw the partners open a branch – Mary Bonn Fashions – named for their daughters.

An elegant bridal shop soon followed at the Broadway location, becoming well known throughout the Tyler area. Lillie Belle's reputation as a successful bridal consultant also extended to the bridal houses in New York City, resulting in her being invited to serve on the board of several bridal houses. Her attention to detail and her commitment to excellence in service became her professional trademarks.

Lillie Belle's warm smile – coupled with her sweet, gentle spirit – created a special charm that appealed to individuals of all ages. Family and friends often referred to her as the “prayer warrior” because of her strong belief in the power of prayer. Her devotion to prayer for others was motivated by the same unconditional love that was evident in her words and deeds. She was especially devoted to the widows group that was her special ministry at Green Acres Baptist Church until her health prevented her from overseeing this group.

The family wishes to thank Peggy Kirkley and Anna McIntyre for their devotion in loving and caring for us all.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

PA

“ Oh CW I'm so sorry that you have lost your Mom. I remember going to her store on Broadway. My Mom let me go to buy my first outfit from your Mother because she trusted her to not let me pick the worse" Bing outfit" I could find. She surely dressed most of us all through Jr, High and High school. I know you will miss her. She truly had a long and good life with you as her son.
Will be thinking of you!
Patsy Cameron Adcock

Patricia C Adcock - March 22, 2016 at 12:11 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lillie Belle Etter.



March 15, 2016 at 12:24 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lillie Belle Etter.



March 15, 2016 at 08:52 AM

DE

“ 1 file added to the album *Grandma Great*



Dina Entz - March 14, 2016 at 10:21 PM

DT

“ *Aunt Lillie, close sister of Bonnie Marie Wright Crawford, my mother, has always been a strong influence in my life. She was a loving and caring aunt, but a strong, intelligent woman that taught me success came with hard work and determination. Her generosity in helping her family was abundant. Her sweet laughter when something was funny was what I loved and although there weren't many of those toward the end, I know she will be joining her family now with lot's of laughter. I will miss her so much, but we have so much to remember of her life and how it played a wonderful part in mine. ~ Diane Crawford Thiemann*

Diane Crawford Thiemann - March 14, 2016 at 03:38 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Lillie Belle Etter.*



March 14, 2016 at 01:45 PM

AD

“ My great-grandmother was and is the essence of true beauty on the inside and out. She blessed so many lives with her lively spirit and nurturing character. I will miss hearing her stories of family and "back then", but I'm so thankful I got to ask her so many questions growing up. Only until a few years ago, we would receive letters upon letters from her and I will cherish those forever. She could tell you anything and everything about weddings, ice skating, football, and golf. She always knew the latest stats and leaders on the board.

I'm so thankful our matriarch instilled such a passion for family. Her legacy will live on as we each try to love and live a little more like Grandma Great did. I know she will forever be watching over us and someday we will meet again. Love you the best and the most.

Ashley Entz Daab - March 14, 2016 at 12:23 PM

NB

Ms. Lula (as we lovingly called on our street) was such a joy to my family. My mom recalls Christmas pasts, where she and Lula visited our neighbors in their Christmas finest...robes and pajamas. Ms. Lula had great stories and a kindness that surpassed expectations. I will treasure every note she wrote to me over the years. The love she gave her family and friends will live on, as they will continue to pass her love on to others. Hold tight to her cherished memories of a life well lived.

Nelda Wilson Brooks - March 15, 2016 at 10:18 AM

LB

“ She was truly a sweet wonderful Christian lady. I first met her when my daughter Dina married her grandson Chip. She was so warm and loving and always made you feel a part of the family. I have so many fond memories of her. She has truly made everyone who has know her have a blessed life. Thank you for being a part of my life you will be missed love you.

Linda Burtram - March 14, 2016 at 11:16 AM

ME

“ Lillie Belle was such a sweet lady. She gave me my first part-time job as a teenager at the Broadway Jr. and Sr. shop and was such a great role model as a business woman. Personally, she encouraged me to be my best and to work hard in life.

My prayers are with the family.

Merrilee Wright Elliff

Merrilee Elliff - March 14, 2016 at 11:01 AM

DE

“ 7 files added to the album *Grandma Great*



Dina Entz - March 14, 2016 at 09:05 AM

DB

“ *Lillie Belle will always be in my heart! I first met Lillie Bell when Chip married Dina my daughter. She made me feel welcome to the family right away. I found out that she had owned a dress shop in Tyler where my mother shopped in the sixty's! What a sweet and caring Lady. We became really good friends thru the years and exchanged cards for various events , especially birthdays and Christmas.*

She prayed for me continuously when I had cancer surgery at MD Anderson. I know that is why I am cancer free today.

My prayers with all that was so fortunate to have know her. She made a difference in all of our lives.

Dale Sr. Burtram

Dale Burtram - March 12, 2016 at 12:38 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lillie Belle Etter.*



March 12, 2016 at 07:26 AM

GL

“ We met over the telephone, and Ms Etter invited me to come to the Widow's Luncheon at Green Acres Church, which I did for 4 years. She was a great friend and inspiration to me and my mother, Frances Wilkinson.

She liked to tell the story of "The wrong Number," but we both knew that it was God who put us in touch. I 'm looking forward to seeing my dear friend some day. What a great day that will be!

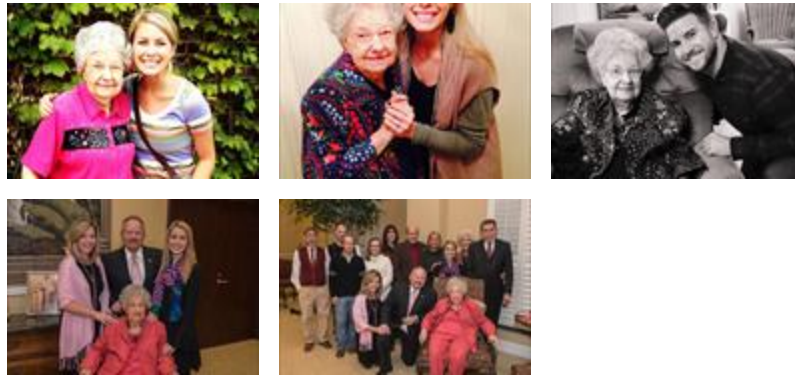
Gloria Loran-Dunlop



Gloria - March 11, 2016 at 05:25 PM

DE

“ 16 files added to the album Grandma Great



Dina Entz - March 11, 2016 at 10:01 AM

CE

“ My sweet Grandmother was such an incredible blessing to all that came to know her. As General in God's Prayer Army, one could always count on her direct pipeline to Heaven for intercessory prayer.

"Grandmana" will forever live on in my heart and I will greatly miss her amazing love and support.

Chip Entz - March 10, 2016 at 09:07 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lillie Belle Etter.*



March 10, 2016 at 02:16 PM



“ *Our Mother was the heart of our family. Because of her, love will see us through, memories will make us rich, and God and family will always be viewed as our greatest gifts. We are so blessed to have had this special lady in our lives for so long, and we take comfort in knowing we will meet again.*
Bonnie and C.W.

bonnie holland - March 10, 2016 at 06:01 AM



“ *All the years I attended First Baptist Mrs. Beard played the organ. She played it at my wedding in 1954. Before that I was in Broadway Junior Shop 5 days a week paying on my lay a way. Daddy told her not to let me do it again when we went in to get my red Easter suit and she said, "Ok!" The next Monday I was back with my 50 cents to pay for the next outfit. I still have one here in this room I bought from there over 60 years ago. I enjoyed her friendship and Judge Beard's. Sorry for all our loss Bonne and CW. Connie Bedgood McWilliams*

Connie McWilliams - March 09, 2016 at 12:50 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lillie Belle Etter.*



March 09, 2016 at 11:50 AM



“ *Bonnie, Chip and family sending love and prayers. Lillie Bell was quite a lady and I will always remember her for including me as a part of her family , as her grandson is married to my niece ,when I first move to Tyle and meet her at GABC where we both served our Savoir. When she knew afew years ago that I was having dinner with Pastor Dykes she called me and ask me if she could go and I told her she was the first one on my list to invite and she was thrilled. She had a great time too. I will always remember her for the sweet lady she was and her love for others and our Savior.*

Billie Jean Coker - March 08, 2016 at 05:48 PM



“ *Bonnie, you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. I send my condolences to you and your family. You've shared so many wonderful and funny stories about your mom. May she rest in peace! Love, Yolanda*

Yolanda Edmond - March 08, 2016 at 03:17 PM



“ *Bonnie & family ~ sending caring thoughts of sympathy to you. To have raised such a kind and caring daughter as Bonnie, Ms. Etter was obviously a wonderful mother. Thinking of you at this time of sadness. The Parries - Jim & Pat*

Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Parrie - March 08, 2016 at 01:33 PM

EC

“ I feel like I really knew Lillie because I know her daughter, Bonnie, so well. I am certain that I would be correct t say that Lillie taught Bonnie so many wonderful and gracious attributes and what you see in one you saw in both. So, I feel safe in saying that Lillie was a Southern lady. She cared deeply for her family and friends. people. More importantly, she was a Christian and exemplified Christ in her life. Lillie lived a long and fruitful life. She touched the hearts of all who knew her and those memories will be cherished. So, it is a time to rejoice with those who rejoice in her life, and weep with those of her family and friends who weep for her passing. Elizabeth A. Clark

Elizabeth A. Clark - March 08, 2016 at 01:05 PM

CB

“ Lillie Belle took me under her wing many years ago and taught me how to direct a proper wedding. She would write me notes when she would remember little things that would be helpful. But the most fun I recall was when she asked Jim and me to photograph her marriage to Gene. Such a sweet ceremony and such a beautiful senior bride. She was the epitome of class and dignity.

Carolyn Batten - March 07, 2016 at 10:47 PM

SB

C.W.Beard
Sorry to hear of your loss. My
payers to you and your family, Sherry (Thompson) Burns

Sherry Burns - March 12, 2016 at 06:03 AM

JV

C.W. ,
Our thoughts, prayers and love to you and your family. What a
wonderful son you have been!
Love,
Joe and Jodie Vaughan

joanne c vaughan - March 12, 2016 at 02:23 PM