



Loretta Van Cleave

August 27, 1938 - July 3, 2010

Loretta Lucas Van Cleave, devoted wife, loving mother, and faithful friend, passed away peacefully on July 3 after an unexpected illness. Loretta was known for her deep and lasting relationships with her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was 71. Loretta was born in Dalhart, TX to C.C. and Zumie Lucas. A member of a large Dalhart family, she grew up in Dalhart and married her husband, Bob Van Cleave, on December 15, 1956. The couple lived in Kerrville, TX and Tennessee Colony, TX for a brief time, before moving to Tyler in 1963. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, her daughter and son-in-law Tamra and Travis Pierce of Tyler, her son and daughter-in-law Robert and Sharon Van Cleave of Dallas, her son and daughter-in-law Luke and Laurie Van Cleave of Johns Creek, GA and her daughter and son-in-law Karen and Mark Gruver of Dallas. She is also survived by nine grandchildren: Amy Egana, and her husband Gonzalo Egana, of Tyler, Matthew Young of Houston, TX, Braxton Van Cleave and Bailey Van Cleave, both of Dallas, Cameron Van Cleave and Timothy Van Cleave, both of Johns Creek, GA, and Christian Gruver, Caroline Gruver and Caleb Gruver, all of Dallas, and three great-grandchildren, Isabella Egana, Alexander Egana, and Sophia Egana, all of Tyler. She is also survived by her brother Gerald Lucas, of Phoenix, AZ, her sister Reola Bonugli, of Laredo, TX, her brother J.C. Lucas, of Dalhart, her sister Rose Combs, of Dalhart, her sister Stella Lundgren of Atascadero, CA, her sister Zona Allred of Charlottesville, VA, her sister Janice Lovelady and her husband, Lee

Lovelady, of Dalhart, and her sister Kay Hume, and her husband James Hume, of Walsh, CO, and numerous nieces and nephews, and many loving friends. Loretta and Bob were founding members of Evangelical Methodist Church (now known as Grace Community Church) in Tyler. Loretta was an active participant in many of the church's ministries, including organizing and leading numerous women's bible studies and helping to found the Grace Community Women's Center. She taught kindergarten and 2nd grade at Grace Community School for over 10 years. In addition to spending quality time with her family, putting in the garden, and taking long walks, Loretta loved the opportunity to invest in the lives of people, as shown by her passion for teaching and ministering to the needs of those that God brought across her path. Loretta was an especially gifted writer of poetry, and her many poems are a testament to her love for her God, her family and her friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Virginia Lucas, her sister Florence Combs, and her brother, Edsel Lucas. Visitation will be at the Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy in Tyler, on from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening, July 7. A service to honor God and celebrate Loretta's life will be held at the Grace Community Church Old Jacksonville campus, 3215 Old Jacksonville Hwy, in Tyler on Thursday, July 8, at 10:00 a.m. A family graveside service will follow. In lieu of flowers or other gifts, please direct memorials to the Denise and Randy Ingram Account, c/o Mercy Ships International, P.O. Box 2020, Garden Valley, TX 75771, or to the Grace Community School Lower Campus Scholarship Fund, 3215 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75701. The family wishes to thank Loretta's many friends for their encouraging words, support, and other acts of kindness during this difficult time. While we grieve our earthly loss, we are rejoicing with her as she now sees her Savior face-to-face, and all look forward to the time where we will join her in Glory. "Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling."

Tribute Wall

VT

“ Dear Van Cleave Family,
May each of you find comfort in knowing that God is "near to those that are broken at heart; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves." (Psalm 34;18) He has promised to soon "swallow up death forever...and wipe the tears from all faces." (Isaiah 25;8) Take care,

valerie thompson - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Bob:*
WE were so sorry to hear about Loretta. You were so blessed to have such a wondreful lady for so long. We are so happy you have such a wonderful family to help in this time. We love you and share in your grief.

Bill and Helen, Betty, and Jean.

Bill Hudiburg - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Loretta was my first friend when I got married 37 years ago, and I always counted her as my mentor. I still remember so clearly things she taught me on how to be a good wife. She once told me I was a treasure--and somehow I have come back to that belief she had in me anytime I faltered. Loretta will always be so very dear to my heart.*

--Janice Johnson

Janice Johnson - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *May thoughts of all your mother meant -Of love she gave, of good times spent -Bring you peace and comfort, too, And keep your mother close to you. Though the ones we love may leave life as we know it, in our memory, the love we know will always carry on. Our greatest sympathy. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5*

Magallon Family - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Bob and Family: So very sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that my prayers are with you. Sincerely, Jane Friedrich (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department retiree.)*

Jane Friedrich - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *We are so sorry for your loss, Uncle Bobby. Loss is never easy, especially when it is as sudden as this. Though we cannot be with you, I hope you will know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Please remember all the good times you had during your many years together and know that she is being cared for in God's loving embrace.*

Jim, Robin, Alex, Christopher and Mae Van Cleave

Jim Van Cleave - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ May the Lord provide you with strength, understanding and peace during this time of great loss and sorrow. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Hayden and Rita Haucke

Hayden & Rita Haucke - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Bob, I was sorry to hear of your wife's passing. I remember meeting her once in your home in Tyler, and she was a very beautiful and gracious lady. May God bless and keep you and your family. She was a Proverbs 31 lady, no doubt, and you'll see her again. I'll not be able to come to the service, but my thoughts are with you, my friend.

Gene T. Miller - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Bob
Take care of yourself. I never met your wife, but she appears to have been a wonderful lady.

Danny

Danny A. Swepston - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I am so sorry to hear about Loretta's passing. She was a loving, giving, woman and will be missed by all of you, every day. I will always remember the times in Aunt Louise's yard when Loretta and Bob would visit. We would drag out all the lawn chairs and sit around and laugh and talk. Times were simpler then. Please accept my condolences for your great loss.

Jill (Taylor) Dolister - July 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM