



Marilyn Hillyer

April 8, 1936 - August 2, 2006

Marilyn Bennett Hillyer was promoted from Hospice of East Texas Home Place to her Heavenly Life on August 2, 2006. There will be a Family Graveside Service at Rose Hill Cemetery at 2:00 P.M. on August 6th officiated by Dr. Michael Massar and Rev. Scott Wiley followed by a Celebration of Marilyn's Life at 3:00 P.M. at First Baptist Church, Tyler. Visitation will be at the Stewart Family Funeral Home on Saturday August 5th from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Marilyn was born on April 8, 1936 in Jackson, TN to Howard C. and Mary Lee Bennett. She attended Kilgore High School and graduated from Baylor University in 1956 with degrees in journalism, history, and English. She married George W. (Bill) Hillyer on July 20, 1956, and they recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends. Marilyn had a lifelong passion for teaching adult Sunday School and cherished and nurtured each and every one of her class members. She was a Deacon in the First Baptist Church and active in Baptist General Convention of Texas work as a member of their Executive Board and on numerous committees of that Board. During their thirty years in the Air Force, she and Bill lived in 17 different places highlighted by six years in Hawaii. While in Hawaii, she edited the Hawaii Baptist newspaper and was a Docent in Iolani Palace (home of the last King and Queen of Hawaii). Throughout their time in the Air Force, she assumed many responsibilities working with the Officer and Enlisted Wives while her husband's units were at home and deployed. Her substantial contributions in support of the lives of military families was highly praised and respected.

Following their retirement, Marilyn and Bill moved to Tyler, TX. While caring for her mother in the early 1990's, she was active in the Alzheimer's Association and edited their monthly newsletter. She and Bill enjoyed traveling and they made a number of stateside driving trips as well as trips overseas to such places as Italy, Greece, Turkey, England, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, and Spain. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Howard C. and Mary Lee Bennett and is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Bill Hillyer; two daughters and sons-in-laws, Susan Kate and Kip Mouser of Tyler and Frances and Roger Ridlehoover of Manhattan Beach, CA; four grandchildren, Laura Ridlehoover (22) of San Francisco, CA, Dan Ridlehoover (19) and Will Ridlehoover (16) of Manhattan Beach, CA, and Katie Mouser (10) of Tyler; two sisters and their husbands, Kate and John Fite of Lewisville, TX, and Susan and Ken Livingston of College Station, TX, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and their children. Honorary pallbearers are the Deacons of First Baptist Church and the members of the M&M Sunday School Class. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Hospice of East Texas, to the Faith Village Programs of the First Baptist Church Tyler, or a charity of one's choice. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ We did not know that Marilyn was ill. I had something amusing to tell her, and e-mailed her. She answered, shared the humor, then mentioned her cancer, matter-of-fact. She also took time to pay me a compliment about something of mine that she'd read, and to ask about our lives. That was Marilyn--caring about others, and remembering friends.

spg

John and Shirley Gumert - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ With Deepest Sympathy to Marilyn's family.

Liz Smith - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Bill and family,
I'm sure you know how very special Marilyn has always been to me. She started out as my Bible study teacher shortly after we moved here and quickly became a mentor and good friend. I will always cherish the encouragement and wisdom she gave me when I went back to school. The hours we spent talking over everything under the sun, while she proofread my papers for school, were more precious than gold. She is loved and missed, tremendously.

John and Nan Garrison - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Our thoughts & prayers have been with you, Marilyn & the family. We now offer our deepest sympathy in your loss but rejoice in knowing where Marilyn is, that she is free of disease and that we will see her again. Praise God for that and pray for those that don't have that assurance.

Judy & Robert (Rip) VanWinkle - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Susan & Kip, We all loved your mother, she was someone you just were glad to see whenever you ran into her. She touched so many people and I see her in you. I will not say I am sorry for your loss because something is not lost if you know where it is. We will miss her too and the separation will make your reunion in Heaven sweeter. I am sorry I can not come to see you as we are leaving on vacation in an hour, but our thoughts and prayers are with you. God continue to comfort and bless you. James and Melanie and the girls

James Leath - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Dearest Bill, Susan Kate, Frances Lee, Kate, Susan and families: So very sorry to hear about your beautiful Marilyn. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you. So many childhood and school memories involve Marilyn. God be with each of you, now and in the days to come. With love,
Suzann and daughter, Clay

Suzann Little - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ To the Hillyer family:

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this most sad time. Tom has very very fond memories of Marilyn and Renee remembers her as beautiful sweet girl. Please accept our sincere condolences.

Tom and Renee Routon Conner - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Her knowledge and wit will be missed but her influence continues.*

Bobby & Marti Halbrook - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Dear Bill,*

I wanted to send my condolences and let you know what a blessing it was for me to spend time with Marilyn. I well remember what a wonderful host she was during our small group study for the Purpose Driven Church and how dedicated she was to her duties as a Sunday School leader. I was always amazed and impressed by her ability to get things done, and done right. I pray that you and your family will find peace in the promise she has thru Christ Jesus. May God bless and comfort you in the days ahead.

*Your brother in Christ,
Mark*

Mark R Hall - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *My heart is heavy as the reality of Marilyn's death sinks in, but she is in a better place and is not suffering any more.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family as you gather to honor wife and mother.

We plan to see you on Saturday.

*All our love,
Mary Lynn and Jimmie*

Jimmie and Mary Lynn Cantrell - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *With appreciation for Marilyn and prayerful support for the family.
John Pierce
Baptists Today*

John D. Pierce - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *We all remember what a gracious person Marilyn was - so brilliant and pretty. I am so glad we all saw her at the last reunion. We are sorry for your loss, but I know the reunion with Dr. and Mrs. Bennett is a beautiful, wonderful worshipful time with the Lord. We, as Christians, try and remember that death is a homegoing for the faithful - and marks the end of earthly suffering.*

chris dukes (christine mullinax) - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ *Marilyn was always willing to share from her vast knowledge and experience. I especially enjoyed sharing reading material with her as we held so many of the same opinions on issues of the day. She will be sorely missed. She was very proud of her family.*

Rest in peace, Marilyn.

Audrey and Richard Killmon - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *So sorry to lose a good friend of so many years. Only God knows why.*

God Bless All

Joe Riley - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ *I will always remember the gift Marilyn presented me one Christmas, The Navity, a contemporary view of the Bethlehem miracle. She was so gifted and inspirational; a favorite patient whose visits I always eagerly anticipated. Besides her legendary wit and wisdom, her evangelical spirit and quiet witness have created a legacy that will live for many years! What blessing she was to me and will be to the heavenly cloud of witnesses.*

William E. Brown, M.D. - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AH

“Marilyn was a gifted Bible teacher, and she has inspired us to put our Biblical knowledge into practice. We are still learning, but we thank her for helping us to move forward in our faith.

Bret and I are sorry we can't help celebrate her life this weekend in Tyler. We are enjoying time together in Seattle.

We will continue to pray for comfort and for peace for your family. We love you!

Amy and Bret Hendricks - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AB

“We are praying that God will provide strength and comfort during this time of sorrow. We have been blessed in so many ways through Marilyn's guidance and grace. May the Peace of Christ be with you and your family.

Ann & Mike Brown - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CD

“Words fail, but beautiful heart memories will always linger. Marilyn and I were childhood friends in Kilgore. The Bennetts's home was my second home and I rejoice at the good times we had. I felt as one of the family. Dr. Bennett, Mary Lee, Marilyn, Kate and Susan were an inspiration in my youth. I am blessed to have had Marilyn as a special friend. Kate and Susan, I love you. Bill, my prayers are offered for you and yours.

Connie Rhea

Connie Rhea Brashears Douty - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ We will especially miss Marilyn's creative, humorous and spiritual Christmas News Letters!

Her bright mind and Biblical insight was an inspiration to many.

Norma and Herman

Norma and Herman Schaffer - August 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM