

## Mary Eikner Hand

September 24, 1938 - April 21, 2020

Mary C. Hand, 81, passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2020, after a sudden illness.

Mary was born on September 24, 1938, in Smith County to the late Homer W. Eikner and Verdis Davis Eikner. She graduated from Tyler High School and attended Tyler Commercial College.

Mary married Ted L. Hand on July 26, 1956 and were married 63 years. She was a life-long member of Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church where she also served as a life-long member of the choir, taught bible school, and was active in the United Methodist Women. Mary was a member of the Friends of the Rose and the East Texas Farm and Ranch Club & Scholarship Fund.

Mary was a devoted wife to husband Ted, a full-time farmer & rancher. Mary was an essential partner to the family rose/tree farm/ranching business as she kept the accounting books, occasional run for tractor parts to deliver to Ted in the field and sometimes drove a tractor in a pinch; she cared for the home while raising 3 children and later loved on grandkids and great-grandchildren. Her kitchen became known as "Dah's Diner", where grandkids knew they could always find something to eat. To church members and friends, her cream corn was the best anywhere but, somehow, she never shared her unwritten recipe. Mary enjoyed going to the deer lease with Ted in the Texas Hill Country for decades with close friends where they cooked deer camp meals, enjoyed music and fellowship. She also enjoyed traveling to Alaska

with her husband and friends. They went on several cruises including a Hand Family Cruise for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Mrs. Hand was preceded in death by her parents, Homer W. Eikner and Verdis C. Eikner; husband, Ted L. Hand. She is survived by a loving family including sons, Larry W. Hand and wife Dawn, Joe D. Hand and wife Vicki; and daughter, Judy L. Hand. Grandchildren, Christopher Hand, Kyle Hand and wife Caitlin, Cody Hand and Taylor Hand; several great-grandchildren; brothers, Edwin Eikner and wife Dolly and Gary Eikner and wife Charlene. A private family graveside service will be held at Tyler Memorial Park Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Following CDC guidelines, we will limit 10 people at a time to view and register at Stewart Family Funeral Home from 1 pm to 5 pm on Friday, April 24, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church- Maintenance Fund, 417 CR 1143, Tyler TX, 75704 or a charity of your choice.

The family would like to acknowledge the dedicated care given by Betty Cuba.

## Cemetery Details

**Private Graveside Service**

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Eikner Hand



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 23, 2020 at 02:53 PM

CL

*She was special lady, like a second mom to me and she will be missed but we all know she's in paradise now!*

Clif - April 23, 2020 at 10:40 PM

JG

*Mary was such a sweet lady! Always had a smile and willing to help! We had many fun dinners in her home. She will be missed and we know she is at home with Ted and our Lord! Love you! Wix and Joann*

Joann Gaston - April 24, 2020 at 01:48 PM

PR

*We will miss Mary's sweet smile. I am so thankful that I got to be friends with her & Ted. Paul has known them all his life. He really enjoyed all his visits with them both. They will truly be missed. Our love & prayers are with the family.*

Paul & Nancy Rozell - April 24, 2020 at 05:45 PM

BE

*A wonderful lady and Sunday school teacher not to mention pretty good softball player so precious awesome family matriarch love her and her great y*

brenda Elrod - April 24, 2020 at 09:51 PM

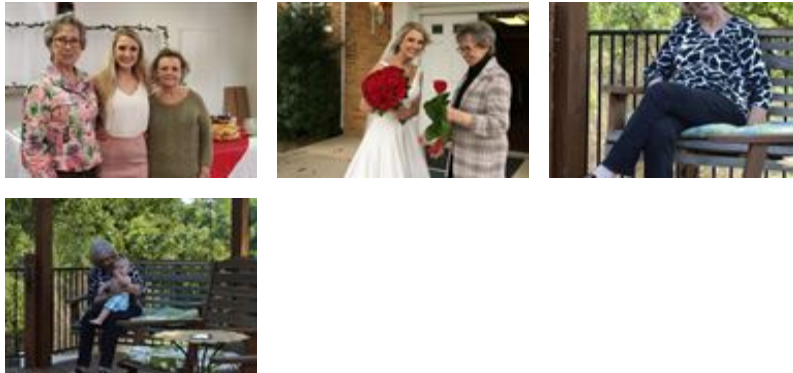
JB

“ Mary was a lovely, kind lady and will be missed by her family and also her church family.

Jim & Linda Butler - April 24, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 24, 2020 at 12:58 PM

RS

“ Our thoughts are prayers are with Mary’s family. She was beautiful inside and out and always smiling. A second mom for Ronald growing up. Ronald and Robin Stidham

robin stidham - April 24, 2020 at 11:32 AM

KC

“ I am so very sorry for your loss! Both Ted and Mary have been staples in my parents lives forever! They will be missed down here but I know they are so happy being together in heaven. Sending prayers,  
Kim and Kenny Collins  
Daughter of Nancy and Paul Fisher

Kim Collins - April 24, 2020 at 10:17 AM

JA

“ So sorry for your loss.  
Tom and Jane Gallenbach

jane - April 24, 2020 at 07:22 AM

MF

“ Although we haven't visited in years if Mary and I met it wouldn't take but a second to enjoy catching up! We grew up together and I always cherished our friendship . I am grateful for Mary recognizing David having trouble on a daily walk and calling to express concern. She encouraged him to go to the doctor which we did and he was having a heart attack. Always grateful for Mary's concern! Love to all. Myrlene and David Florey

Myrlene Florey - April 24, 2020 at 12:25 AM



“ 56 files added to the album LifeTributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 23, 2020 at 02:50 PM