



Mary Ann Jones

October 26, 1936 - January 26, 2023

Mary Ann Jones was called home to be with her Lord and Savior on January 26, 2023 in Coppell, Texas after a brief illness. She will be missed.

Born October 26, 1936, in Jacksonville, Texas to Lola Mae and Jobie Ross Smith, Mary Ann grew up near her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins – including her beloved Mama Fling. There was a lot of hard work but also a lot of love.

After graduating from Jacksonville High School, Mary Ann went to Federal Business School and Tyler Junior College. Soon after graduating she married Jeff Jones and began work as the Executive Secretary. She excelled at her job, but decided to stay at home to be a full-time Mom to her daughter and, later, her son. She kept her award-winning typing and shorthand skills from getting rusty by being the bookkeeper and secretary for Jeff as he left teaching to take over his family's business, Tyler Piano Company.

Mary Ann was blessed with interior decorating skills that she used to keep her home looking beautiful, especially enjoying decorating for Christmas and entertaining her friends at many dinner parties over the years. She was always involved in her children's lives, becoming active in leadership roles in the PTA, and carting them back and forth to their many activities and continuing to help out in any way she was needed over all the years.

Mary Ann was an active member of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler starting in 1964, teaching Sunday School in the youth department and serving on the Welcome Committee, among other roles. She and Jeff watch GABC grow from a few hundred members when they joined to more than 16,000 members in their 48 years as members of the church. After moving to Coppell, Texas in 2010 to be close to their son, they joined another great church – First Baptist Grapevine. Church has always been an important part of her life.

Friends have also been important to her – Mary Ann lit up a room with her smile, never met a stranger, and made friends easily. She cherished her many close friends – hosting regular bridge nights and going on monthly birthday lunches with the “girls” as well as couples’ trips where the women usually let their husbands tag along.

Nothing made Mary Ann happier than being with her grandchildren, Austin and Chandler, and she was the best Mother and Grandmother one could hope to have.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her nephews, Jobie Ralph Smith Jr. and Jimmie Smith of Arlington, Texas. Mary Ann is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Jeff; her daughter, Donna Jones and son-in-law, Jack Abbott of San Diego, California; her son, Scott Jones of Coppell; her grandson, Austin Williams of Brooklyn, New York; and granddaughter, Chandler Williams of San Rafael, California; her step-grandchildren, Brittany and Dominic Abbott of San Diego, California; the best-ever brother, Jobie Ralph Smith and his wife Karen of Arlington; her brothers-in-law, Sam C. Jones and wife Mary Helen and James Jones and wife Kay; as well as many wonderful cousins, and long-time Christian friends.

A graveside ceremony will be held at Jarratt Cemetery in Jacksonville, Texas

at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 30, 2023, with Rev. C.D. Walker officiating, followed by a memorial service at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy, in Tyler at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Kevin Burdette officiating, with visitation between 1-2 p.m.

Pallbearers will be Jack Abbott, Mike Fagg, Johnny Wayne Fling, Sammy Fling, Tom Perryman and Jim Powell.

If desired, donations may be made to Meals on Wheels, 3001 Robertson Road, Tyler, Texas 75701 (www.mealsonwheelsetx.org).

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 30. 10:30 AM (CT)

Jarratt Cemetery
County Road 1514
Jacksonville, TX 75766

Visitation

JAN 30. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

JAN 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

 Donna
Jones

“ Mom grew up on a farm during the Depression, surrounded by family – including her beloved Mama Fling. She picked tomatoes and learned to drive on a tractor. It was a good childhood, despite the hard work.

After graduating from Jacksonville High– where she named Tomato Queen -- Mom went to Federal Business School in Tyler, where 67 years ago she met and married Dad. I was born a few years later, while Mom was an Executive Secretary at Texas US Chemical in Port Neches. While there, she challenged a male co-worker -- who kept bragging on his running skills -- to a race. Barefoot and in a skirt, she won. Mom was up to any challenge.

Despite loving her job, she gave it up to be a full-time Mom to me and my brother, Scott. After moving to Tyler in 1963, we joined GABC, where Mom was active for 48 years, teaching youth Sunday School, welcoming guests, playing softball on the women’s team and more, as the church grew from a few hundred to more than 10,000 members. Mom hated to leave when they moved to Coppell, but soon found a new church home in First Baptist Grapevine. Mom was loving, smart, funny, kind, tough and dependable – my safe harbor, always there when I needed her – even if there were plenty of times we butted heads. I lost my temper with her recently and she said “we yell, but we love each other.” And we did. We had many an argument when what she wanted for me did not match what I wanted for myself, but beneath the disagreements was always love.

She loved nothing more than being Grandmother to Austin and Chandler and Mom to me and Scott.

She believed that anything worth doing was worth doing right – she did not believe in doing anything half-way. When she joined the PTA, she soon became PTA President. When she decided to instill a love of reading in me, she got the library to issue me a card when I was only three, so we could check out a whole stack of books each week. When we were older, she went back to school for her associates degree from TJC.

Mother lit up a room with her smile, never met a stranger, and made friends easily. She loved bridge nights and monthly birthday lunches

with the “girls” and couples’ trips, when the women let the men tag along. Mother had a beautiful eye, and kept our home updated and cozy and immaculately clean. She loved entertaining, laughing and telling stories until well past midnight. She never missed a Fling family reunion.

She gave me my strength, my heart, my empathy, my courage, my manners, my temper, my tenacity, and my belief that there is nothing I cannot do if I set my mind to it.

Yesterday I looked through a book I’d given her in which she’d highlighted words of wisdom that resonated, one of which is especially relevant today: “when you die,” it says, “what you take with you is what you leave behind.” Mother leaves behind a legacy of kindness, hospitality, friendship, family and faith in God. She will continue to live on, through all of us.

Donna Jones - February 08, 2023 at 09:48 AM



“ 29 files added to the album Life Tributes




Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 30, 2023 at 02:38 PM

BJ

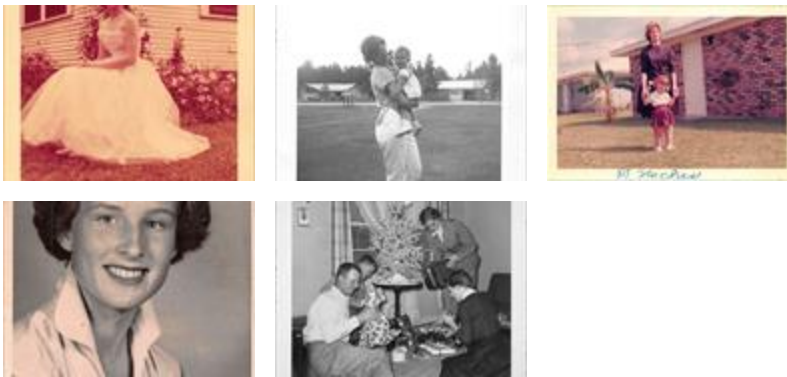
“ Jeff and family. My condolences on the loss of a truly devoted wife and mother. Mary Ann always exemplified grace and class. She will be truly missed by all who knew her.

Bill Jeffreys

Bill Jeffreys - January 29, 2023 at 03:22 PM

 Donna Jones

“ 15 files added to the album *Mary Ann Memories*



Donna Jones - January 28, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Jones.



January 28, 2023 at 10:31 AM