



Nell Blackburn

January 4, 1940 - September 15, 2018

Paula Nell Blackburn was born January 4, 1940, in Titus County, Texas, to the late Fred and Pauline Hutchings. Nell passed away at the age of 78 on September 15, 2018, in Dallas after a sudden illness.

Following graduation from Winfield High School, she married the love of her life and best friend, Jerry Blackburn on November 8, 1958. Nell and Jerry were blissfully married for almost 60 years. Always together, they celebrated every day united in love and life. Their marriage was the model of a Christ-centered partnership. Through their lives, they showed family and friends what being servant leaders of Jesus truly looks like. Known to her grandchildren and close loved ones as “NaNell,” she was the thread that sewed her family together, and she weaved the fabric of her faith in Jesus into the lives of all who knew her. Nell was a best friend to many. Spiritually gifted with encouragement, she loved others passionately, served sacrificially, cared humbly, and showed others how to love Jesus faithfully.

Nell was an active member of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler since 1987. Prior to moving home to East Texas, Nell and Jerry lived in Minden, Louisiana for 29 years, where they were leaders in ministry at First Baptist Church, Minden.

Nell was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Cheryl Stephens. She is

survived by her family including husband, Jerry; two sons and daughter-in-law, Bret and Blair and Michelle Blackburn; grandchildren, Taylor, Elizabeth Blair, and Parker; sisters and brothers-in-law, Rex and Jerry Ann Amerson and Rodney and Darla Cargile; brothers and sisters-in-law, Doug Hutchings, Ben and Tonya Hutchings, Don and Joyce Hutchings, and Carlos Hutchings; brother-in-law and wife, Jack and Delores Blackburn; and sister-in-law, Thelma Blackburn.

Visitation for family and friends is scheduled Friday, September 21, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler.

A private family graveside service will be held in Tyler on Saturday, September 22, at the Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery with son, Dr. J. Blair Blackburn and nephew, Rev. Mike Kessler officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorials be made in honor of Nell to the Nell and Jerry Blackburn Servant Leader Scholarship Fund at East Texas Baptist University, One Tiger Drive, Marshall, Texas 75670, or online at www.etbu.edu/about-etbu/give.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

LM

“ *Loretta Martinez lit a candle in memory of Nell Blackburn*



Loretta Martinez - September 28, 2018 at 08:14 AM

MC

“ *Though I have only met Nell one time in my life, I know her son, Blair and how great an influence she had on him and so many others. She was the Light and the Anchor for this beautiful family. As Matthew 5:4 says, Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. No matter how much you prepare, sudden loss is a trial for strength within. May Philipians 4:7 be an encouragement at this time ...And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ... Just know I'm praying for Blair and his family and all those who have had the blessing of knowing Nell through the years. She will be greatly missed but is gloriously singing praises to her Lord in heaven. A hope for all of us to look forward to - in joining her someday. I leave with you 1Peter 1: 3-6 and ask that you find a moment to open the Holy Bible and be comforted by Him alone. Sending prayers this evening during visitation and looking forward to a peaceful spirit at gravesite and the coming week ahead - Love Always, Melinda Connolly*

Melinda Connolly - September 21, 2018 at 06:20 PM

JT

“ *Nell, I knew you as friend and neighbor for such a short time, but I'll always remember your sweet smile.*

Jo Truly

Jo Truly - September 21, 2018 at 12:51 PM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



September 20, 2018 at 03:36 PM

CS

“ *Jerry, Bret, Blair, Michelle & Family....I was so saddened to hear about Nell's passing. She was always so generous and loving. Her obituary says it all. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love and miss you all. Clifton & Tammy Stidham*

Clifton & Tammy Stidham - September 20, 2018 at 01:45 PM

SK

“ *Nell, your special friendship and guidance has left a lasting impression on me that will always continue. Your ministry at FBC Minden, help to mold me into the person I am today. Your mentoring during the beauty pageant years will always remain a very sweet and dear memory. I shall miss our texting back and forth to pick the winner of pageants. You were always there for me especially when my husband passed away. You entrusted your boys to me to babysit a few times back in the day. They have grown into men that you and Jerry can be proud of. Your smile and love will be in my heart from this day forward. Thank you.*



Sue Ann Kinsey - September 20, 2018 at 11:32 AM

SK

“ *Sue Ann Richardson Kinsey purchased the Faire st of All for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



Sue Ann Richardson Kinsey - September 20, 2018 at 11:23 AM

LS

“ *So sorry to hear of Nell's passing*

Lynwood Smith - September 20, 2018 at 07:37 AM

MP

“ *Morgan Pruitt purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



Morgan Pruitt - September 19, 2018 at 07:11 PM

GK

“ *Graydon and Roberta Kitchens purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



Graydon and Roberta Kitchens - September 19, 2018 at 04:18 PM

WB

“ *With sympathy and love, Ben and Julie Bratcher purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



With sympathy and love, Ben and Julie Bratcher - September 19, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



September 18, 2018 at 10:00 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nell Blackburn.*



September 18, 2018 at 09:31 PM



“ *I will never forget her beautiful laugh. She was warm, caring , understanding but mostly she loved whole heartedly no matter if you were family or a friend. She loved her Lord and family. I will miss you dearly!*

Cheryl Hutchings - September 17, 2018 at 07:43 PM