



Peggy Goodwin Abernathy

May 18, 1935 - February 13, 2015

Services for Peggy Abernathy, 79, of Tyler, will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Rose Heights Church in Tyler with Rev. Doug Anderson officiating.

Burial will follow at Cathedral In The Pines in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Peggy Abernathy went to be with the Lord on February 13, 2015 after a brief illness. She was born May 18, 1935 in Crescent City, Florida.

Peggy lived her life as a servant of the Lord with a heart for the needy. In the early 1980s, she set up a "clothes closet" at Living Word Church, a charity where people in need could receive donated clothing. In 1984, she and her husband co-founded The King's Storehouse, the first food bank in East Texas that would eventually feed tens of thousands of the hungry. Today it serves over 100 organizations in more than 22 counties. Peggy, being legally blind for the last 20 years, took a cab or bus every day to the storehouse to volunteer as the Director of Operations. The King's Storehouse continues to grow and recently acquired an additional building, which was named The Peggy Abernathy Annex in her honor. She then opened The Gold Carriage, a consignment shop run by her and her daughter, Marcia. Peggy juggled both her business and volunteer work with the food bank for well over 20 years. In

2002, the Lord laid on her heart to close The Gold Carriage to focus her energy solely on the food bank, which she knew to be her true calling in life.

The Tyler City Council declared October 18, 2009 to be 'Peggy Abernathy Day' in the City of Tyler and she has been awarded a key to the city in honor of her service to the community. Peggy was also the recipient of the Humanitarian Award given by the Rose Garden Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. In 2012, Peggy received the Stone Soup Award from PATH in recognition of her efforts to feed the hungry.

Peggy is predeceased by her husband, William "Bill" Abernathy and her daughter, Marcia Campbell.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Billie and Jim Bickerdike; daughter and son-in-law Donna and Terry Blackwell; grandchildren Bryan Campbell, Amanda Zorbanos, Hunter Bickerdike, Taylor Bickerdike, Tyler Blackwell, and Blair Blackwell; and four great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Jim Bickerdike, Terry Blackwell, Bryan Campbell, Hunter Bickerdike, Taylor Bickerdike, and Tyler Blackwell. Honorary Pallbearer is Robert Taylor.

Special thanks to the contributors, volunteers, staff, and board members of The King's Storehouse who help carry on Peggy's legacy.

Visitation is scheduled from 5:30-7:30 PM on Monday, February 16, 2015, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

Memorial gifts may be made to The King's Storehouse Food Bank, PO Box 131782, Tyler, Texas 75713.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **16**. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

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

Service

FEB **17**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rose Heights Church of God
2120 Old Omen Rd.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Billy and Willeta Boren purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Peggy Goodwin Abernathy.*



Billy and Willeta Boren - February 16, 2015 at 05:34 PM

RG

“ *Peggy was a great friend. We had some wonderful times at her home playing cards. The fellowship was very good.*



Rosemary Gregg - February 16, 2015 at 02:23 PM

RG

“ *Rosemary Gregg sent a virtual gift in memory of Peggy Goodwin Abernathy*



Rosemary Gregg - February 16, 2015 at 02:18 PM

MW

“ Dear Donna:

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. She was such a true blessing to so many people but the most to you and your sisters. I know you will keep her memory close to your heart always. Know I am praying for you and hugs your way.

Love you

Margaret Waller

Margaret Waller - February 16, 2015 at 01:25 PM

LP

“ Lanes Chapel UMC Food Pantry purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Peggy Goodwin Abernathy.



Lanes Chapel UMC Food Pantry - February 16, 2015 at 10:45 AM

PW

“ Donna and Billie I know your proud of your moms legacy and what she started in our community! What an awesome tribute spoken about her life! Praying for your family. Love ya Pam and Gene

pam watson - February 16, 2015 at 10:31 AM

MS

“Peggy is an outstanding example of living a life dedicated to serving the Lord and others. She always gave the Lord credit for opening doors that enabled the food bank to prosper allowing all of us who purchased food from it to meet the needs of those in need. I will greatly miss her presence in the office as she greeted me with a warm hello and a word of friendship. Many owe much to Peggy and I am grateful our paths crossed.

Mike Simpson, President
Community Food Pantry Noonday

Mike Simpson - February 16, 2015 at 09:53 AM



“Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Peggy Goodwin Abernathy.



February 15, 2015 at 10:29 PM

SB

“Shane Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Peggy Goodwin Abernathy



Shane Blackwell - February 14, 2015 at 03:37 PM