



Vassa Avonnell Ballou

July 30, 1939 - August 1, 2013

Avonnell Bolton Ballou, 74, passed away on Thursday, August 1, 2013.

The family will receive Tyler-area friends on Sunday, August 4, 2013, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home. The memorial service, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home, will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2013 in the chapel at First Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana . The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service in the parlor. A family graveside and interment service will follow at Shreveport's Forest Park cemetery.

Avonnell was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, July 30, 1939. She graduated from C. E. Byrd High School in Shreveport in 1957, and then received her Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, in 1961. Following her graduation from Baylor University, she married William E. (Bill) Ballou on June 25, 1961.

A gifted and highly recognized educator, Avonnell touched the lives of countless numbers of children. She taught elementary-aged children both in public schools and in Baptist Sunday schools and Vacation Bible Schools. In both the Amarillo, Texas, ISD, and the Abilene, Texas, ISD, she received Master Teacher recognition. Following the nomination from one of her

students in Abilene, she received the Teacher Tribute award in 2003. In recognition of her master teaching skills, she was enlisted on numerous occasions to lead conferences in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas for other teachers, helping them to advance their own personal teaching techniques.

Her teaching experiences began early in her life as she and her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Thompson, organized Vacation Bible Schools in the late '40s and early '50s for children in Bossier City, Louisiana. Avonnell continued teaching the Bible to young children throughout her student days at Baylor University as she participated in the weekly Friday night missions program. Avonnell accepted Christ as her personal savior at the age of nine, and with the encouragement of her parents and grandmother, she developed a passion for sharing the love of Jesus with young children.

When she was a high school student, she felt the Lord calling her into full-time mission service. Rather than going to an overseas mission field, she married a young man who had been called to the ministry, and together they ministered to and through Baptist churches in Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia.

Avonnell was predeceased by her paternal grandparents, the Rev. George and Mary Bolton of Shreveport, and her maternal grandparents, Vassa and Mary Thompson of Bossier City. Also preceding her in death were her parents, Otho George and Winona Thompson Bolton of Shreveport; her sister, Mary Ann Bolton Herndon of Shreveport; and her brother, O. G. (Buddy) Bolton, Jr. of Bossier City.

She is survived by her husband, William E. (Bill) Ballou of Tyler; daughter Betsy Ballou of Newton, MS.; and son Will Bolton Ballou and wife Leigh Ann of Meridian, MS. Her four grandchildren are William Hayden Thrasher of Newton, MS and Mary Webb Ballou, Charlie Ballou, and George Ballou, all of Meridian, MS.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial gifts be made to Truett Theological Seminary or The School of Education, Baylor University, One Bear Place 97026, Waco, Texas 76798.

Cemetery Details

Forest Park Cemetery

3700 St. Vincent Avenue
Shreveport, LA
(318) 861-3544

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

AUG 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Shreveport

Tribute Wall

BB

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:49 PM

BR

“ *My prayers go out to your family in the loss of Avonnell. I have never met you but I have so many memories of all the good times we had in Bossier growing up. We all went to same church and our dads both owned a grocery store only a block away until they moved down by bridge. We had a lot of fun times staying in Shreveport with her grandmother. She was very special to me and from what I read has been a blessing to many all these years. May God give you peace and strength in the coming days. Beverly Brown Reynolds*

beverly Reynolds - August 10, 2013 at 06:25 PM

BB

Thank you so much!!! Betsy Ballou

Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:43 PM

JG

“ *Dr. Ballou, we are so sad to learn about Avonnell, and we know your sorrow, too, as we have lost our spouse. We learned to appreciate her, and you, on the Panama Canal Cruise we took with ya'll. What a precious woman.!! God bless you as you go through this time. We would love to see you here in Abilene to visit, you have so many friends.*

Joyce Surek& Glenda Greebon - August 02, 2013 at 10:13 PM

BB

Thank you so much!! Betsy Ballou

Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:43 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vassa Avonnell Ballou.*



August 02, 2013 at 10:03 PM

ME

“ *So sorry for your loss...I know from experience....there will always be a void in your life when you've been together for so many years but God knows our sadness and will keep you going.*
Martha Elliott

Martha Elliott - August 02, 2013 at 01:09 PM

BB

I miss her terribly! Betsy Ballou

Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:42 PM

GD

“ Avonnell, always smiling, always supportive and empathetic, you will be missed by all whose lives you touched. And, we were many!

Blessings and hugs to the family you and Bill created as they comfort each other thru the grief process. It is long and hard, but full of wonderful memories because YOU are so unforgettable!

Genna Davis

Genna Davis - August 02, 2013 at 10:44 AM

BB

Thank you so much!!!! Betsy Ballou

Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:42 PM

SM

“ For Avonnell Bolton Ballou, absolutely the hallmark of sisters, a loving and loyal daughter and granddaughter, a Proverbs 31 wife and mother, and my Aunt who abundantly loved me entirely and along with her husband prayed for me throughout my life. I know where you live today because I know Who had residence in your heart always...Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*love and gratefulness,
Shan Herndon Megison*

Shan Megison - August 02, 2013 at 09:11 AM

BB

I miss her....

Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:44 PM

BA

“ *One of the sweetest, kindest, most thoughtful women I've known.*

Barbara Anglin - August 02, 2013 at 07:31 AM

BB

She really was!!!!

Betsy Ballou - November 01, 2013 at 12:44 PM