



## Vida Jo Wooten

August 21, 1932 - March 11, 2026

Vida Jo Wooten of Tyler was anointed with angel's wings on March 11, 2026. She was born on August 21, 1932, in Ropesville to Floyd and Rachel Copeland. Her family moved to Chandler when she was a child. Vida later attended Tyler Junior College, where she was a proud Apache Belle. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree from North Texas University and a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin University.

Vida had an impressive professional career as an educator in the Tyler ISD for 24 years. She taught at Bell and Bonner Elementary Schools, and finished her career as the first female curriculum director for all 15 elementary schools in the District.

Vida met her husband, John Ward Wooten, while attending Tyler Junior College. Following her retirement from Tyler ISD, John and Vida lived in Indonesia and Norway for a number of years while John worked in the petroleum industry.

In 2000, they settled in Tyler, where they became active members of Marvin Methodist Church. Vida took great pride in her work as a Stephen Minister, a member of the Marvin Mission Team, and a volunteer at Hospice of East Texas.

One would be hard pressed to find a more loving and generous soul than Vida. She had a knack for making you feel like a million bucks while simultaneously walloping you at a game of dominoes, she never met a person (or a pimento cheese sandwich) that she didn't like, and her slightly off-key renditions of old Methodist hymns were music to our ears.

Vida was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Rachel Copeland, and her husband, John Ward Wooten. She is survived by her brother, Don Copeland and his wife Martha, her son, Clifford Wooten and his wife Judy, her daughter, Kristal Stafford and her husband Richard, her grandchildren, Jennie Wooten, Rachel Wooten, Philip Wooten, Daniel Stafford, and Kirk Stafford, and great-grandchildren Henry, Fitzgerald, Maeve, Fiona, and Sybil.

A celebration of Vida's life will be announced in the near future.

# Tribute Wall

TG

“ I met Vida Jo when I was with the Tyler ISD and never failed to laugh when she told some of her stories about their place in Chandler and her in a formal dress helping birth a calf!! She never failed to brighten my day and in later years while helping at Marvin I would call Vida at The Hamptons just to check on her and our visit never failed to brighten my dad. Vida was pure joy in every respect. Beloved by everyone!

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**Tom Gregory** - March 29 at 10:58 AM

DM

“ David McKee sent a virtual gift in memory of Vida Jo Wooten



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**David McKee** - March 23 at 06:40 AM

CH

“ Krystal, Cliff & family, Heaven has gained a true angel. I'm sure John met her with his arms opened wide. Their love for each other was awe inspiring. My family worked alongside Vida & John during mission projects and trips. May God's comforting arms surround y'all and give you peace. We love you. Johnny, Cathy, Stacey Hirt.

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**Cathy Hirt** - March 18 at 04:09 PM

GT

“ Gay A Tyra lit a candle in memory of Vida Jo Wooten



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**Gay A Tyra** - March 15 at 08:52 AM

JM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Vida’s passing. She was a big influence on me as I grew up and became a teacher. She was friends with my mom and then when I became a teacher, she became my friend. So many children and educators were touched by Mrs. Wooten.

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**Jo McMahan** - March 15 at 12:25 AM

MF

“ What a sweet & fun lady! I enjoyed visiting with Vida at church & at Wonderful Wednesday in the early 2,000's. She was so upbeat & a pleasure to be around & so cute driving around in her little VW Beetle with the flower on it.

Vida once arrived at Wonderful Wednesday with a nose piercing! Now that was brave! Then she mentioned one of her grandchildren gave it to her! Sooo funny & not real, being easily removed.

Heaven received an A#1 Angel, for certain!

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**Marty Fazand** - March 14 at 01:32 PM

WB

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Vida Jo's death. I've known her for many years, and worked with her at Region 7 Education Service Center in Kilgore. She and I were friends and had a long, professional relationship. I always appreciated her because she was such a good person, an excellent educator and a role model to so many children and young teachers. After retirement, she and I worked together at the retired teachers association in Tyler. My deepest condolences to her family. ---Wayne Berryman

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**Wayne Berryman** - March 14 at 12:23 PM

RH

“ To the entire Wooten family

*I'm so sorry to see that Vida Jo has passed away. She was my second grade teacher at Bell Elementary and my favorite of all time. It meant so much to me to get to visit her twice last August while in Tyler after all these years. I actually told her we may not be around very long, but when we get to heaven I'm definitely going to look her up and she said " You be sure and look me up" which was just so sweet of her. Condolences to your entire family.*

*Robert Hahn  
Dallas*

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**Robert Hahn** - March 13 at 06:04 PM