



Virginia Lilly

June 1, 1936 - September 22, 2025

Services for Virginia Sue Johnson Lilly, 89, of Tyler, will be held on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Tony Garrett officiating. Burial will follow at Meador Cemetery in Tyler. Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m., prior to the service.

Virginia passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, September 22, 2025. She was born June 1, 1936, in Tyler to the late Rev. Henry Johnson and Lottie Rudd Johnson.

She was preceded in death by Willie, her husband of 68 years, her sister Barbara Thoene, and her three brothers: John Henry Johnson, Don Johnson, and Roland Johnson.

She is survived by her children: Gail Thigpen and husband Joe, Don Lilly and wife Amy, Ted Lilly and wife Cathy, her grandchildren: Lauren Lilly Odom and husband Christopher, Andrew Thigpen, Peyton Lilly, Sarah Lilly and husband Joe Bakker, Adam Lilly and wife Morgan Hunt, as well as her great-grandchildren: Levi Odom, Mason Odom, and she was eagerly awaiting the arrival of another Odom in November.

Virginia graduated from Tyler High School and attended Tyler Commercial College. She was a long-time member of Southern Oaks Baptist Church in

Tyler where she was active in many ministries. She was a homemaker until her children left for college. She then started her career as the office manager at Mary V's dress shop. After retirement, she and Willie travelled extensively with family and their close church friends. Some of her most memorable travel adventures included many trips to Roaring River State Park with her grandchildren, annual trips to Branson and Gatlinburg with her best friends, a trip to Europe with family, and a trip to Hawaii with Willie in 2017.

Virginia was blessed with the gift of hospitality, and she always enjoyed gathering with large groups of family and friends over meals. Some of her more original recipes include banana-less banana pudding and chicken-less chicken and dumplings. Her great-grandchildren, Levi and Mason, were confident that there would always be Blue Bell ice cream in the freezer.

Her hobbies included painting, card games, Mahjong, jigsaw puzzles, and most recently Diamond Dotz art.

Pallbearers are Adam Lilly, Peyton Lilly, Christopher Odom, Joe Bakker, Kent Lilly, Roy Lilly, Larry Swinford, and Nick Swinford. Honorary pallbearers are Andy Thigpen, Duane Schmidtke, Bud Lilly, Ryan Lilly, Doyle Starnes, Mason Deen, Jeremy Hasley, Dennie Burkes, and Kirk Bynum.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, <http://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>, and Southern Oaks Baptist Church, <https://welovethegospel.com>.

Cemetery Details

Meador Cemetery

10188 CR 2121
Tyler, TX 75707

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Service

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Virginia Lilly



Stewart Family Funeral Home - October 03, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Virginia Lilly



Stewart Family Funeral Home - October 02, 2025 at 04:04 PM

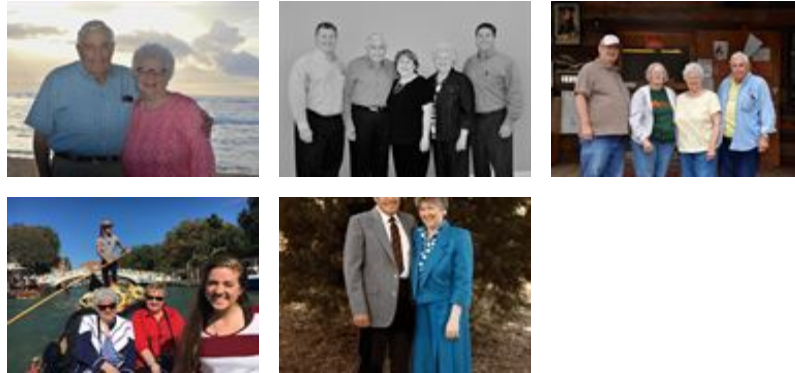


“ Virginia was as sweet as they come. She will be dearly missed. I absolutely loved her and Willy. Willy was my patient at Beltone for years. God bless the family now they have these two special angels watching over them. 🙏🌸

Tamara Roach - October 30, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ 178 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - October 02, 2025 at 03:35 PM



“ *Miss Virginia, I just can't believe you are gone. You were such a sweet, wonderful friend to my Mimi. Every time I work on my Diamond Dotz art set that you so graciously gave me, I will think of you. <3*

Lindsey Lunsford - October 01, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Virginia Lilly.*



September 30, 2025 at 03:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Virginia Lilly.*



September 28, 2025 at 09:57 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Virginia Lilly.*



September 26, 2025 at 11:31 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Virginia Lilly.*

September 26, 2025 at 11:31 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Virginia Lilly.*



September 26, 2025 at 11:02 AM

PD

“ Gail, I was so sorry to learn that your mom died. I did not know her, but if she was anything like you; she had to be a very special and kind lady. I will be praying for you in the days ahead. I know how hard it is to have to bury someone you love with all your heart.

Penny Davison - September 24, 2025 at 10:17 PM

KT

“ My memory of Aunt Sue started a very long time ago when they lived behind my family. Gail and I use to play Barbie dolls together. When I was 8-9, my older brother, Randy, got very sick with Leukemia and my parents were non stop at the hospital with him, as you can understand. Aunt Sue and Uncle Willie took care of me and my brother. I remmeber many many days and nights being at their house. I just saw Aunt Sue not that long ago while I was in Tyler. I am so blessed to have gotten to see her and know her. I love you so much. Gail, Don and Ted, my heart and prayers are with all of you.

Karen Kobe Tunnell

Karen Tunnell - September 22, 2025 at 05:37 PM