



Wilma Jean Owen

January 29, 1934 - April 4, 2025

Wilma Jean Owen (Duke) was born Jan. 29, 1934 in Fouke, Ark. to Sherman Arthur Duke and Kathryn Miller (Duke). Her family moved to Kilgore when she was a very young girl when her father went to work for Shell Oil Co. She graduated from Kilgore High School and attended Baylor University. There she met her future husband, Bill Owen, whom she married in 1955. They moved around several times as Bill's work as a geologist required. They lived in Kennedy, Texas, Grand Junction, Colorado, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Amarillo, Texas and Longview, Texas before moving to Tyler in 1974. She had been a member of First Baptist Church, Tyler, since 1974.

Jean passed away April 4th 2025 in Tyler. She was preceded in death by her (husband, Bill), parents, a daughter, Cathy Lea Owen, and her eldest son Burl Duke Owen. She is survived by her son William Alvin Owen, four grandchildren, Benjamin Owen, Natalie Owen, Megan Owen and Seth Owen, and two great grand-babies. She also is survived by her two sisters, Margaret Cotten and Ruth Smith, both of Tyler, as well as three nieces and four nephews.

Jean loved life and enjoyed her family very much. She was always ready to volunteer to help others. When her boys were young she always volunteered as a Home Room Mother for them. After the boys grew up she enjoyed working at sales jobs because she liked dealing with people. At various times she worked for the J.M. Dyer Co., Courtesy Pontiac, Jim Walter Homes and the Potpourri House. In her later years she enjoyed volunteer work at Mother

Frances Hospital, PATH and the Family Assistance Center at First Baptist Church. She never let any of these jobs interfere with her job as a homemaker; that was her favorite job, and she was very good at it! Jean Owen never met a stranger. No matter the weather or time of day, she always had a smile for anyone she encountered. When she wasn't working in the yard keeping things beautiful, she was making and taking food and baked goods to anyone in need of comfort or company. Her biggest joy was entertaining family and friends in her home around the holidays. We can rest assured that she is now busy at work helping the other angels wherever she is needed.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mrs. Owens passing. I worked with her and fell in love with her at Courtesy Pontiac. I would pass her house many of times and if she was outside, would stop and visit. I loved her wisdom and wit and that beautiful smile!

carol mckinney - April 30, 2025 at 07:09 AM

CW

She was a wonderful person when I came to First Baptist Church in 2012 I got with Ryan Wyatt he introduced me to her by him I was so happy to become her friend she helped me see Ryan sometimes after Church she was so wonderful other friends thought the world of her so did Ryan and I I was blessed to know her God bless my sweet friend in Heaven

Casey L Wyatt - June 01, 2025 at 12:17 PM

JW

“ I met Jean in 1982 when we joined First Baptist Church. We were in the same Sunday School class and worked together at TFAC. She was pure sophistication.. Loved her perky little hats and the elegant way she dressed. Visiting her home at Christmas was a treat I looked forward to each year. We will miss her earthly presence but her smiling face will remain in our memories.

Joanne Williams - April 11, 2025 at 01:54 PM

LG

“ Jean was my beloved neighbor for 20 years. She was a friend for sure. I loved her dearly. I saw her at very low times and happy. The loss of her beloved Bill was so sad. A stronger woman I have never known. Her strength was always amazing to me. I know that she has a special place in heaven. Jesus gained an angel.

Lydia Gipson - April 09, 2025 at 08:32 PM

SM

“ I knew Jean through her volunteer work and the Potpourri house. She was a happy soul and always smiling. She was the best at anything she set her mind to doing. Jean loved life and her family meant everything to her.

Jean, was a devoted Christian and she is happy walking with the Lord in heaven. May she rest in peace.

Deepest Sympathy

Sheryl Miller 🙏🏻✝️



Sheryl Miller - April 08, 2025 at 02:43 PM