



Hester Hughes

February 8, 1933 - April 6, 2021

Hester Hughes, age 88 of Purcell, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Hester Lou Ellis was born February 8, 1933 in Spiro, OK, the 3rd of 4 children born to Olin B. Ellis and Zula Mae (Cariker) Ellis. Like many in that era, the Ellis family spent time between California and Oklahoma following work and raising their family. Hester graduated from Stigler High School in 1950. She married young to Gerald St. Clair, and to this union, daughter Teresa was born in Union City, California. Gerald suddenly passed away in 1971, and Hester managed to pick herself up and keep going. She later met a retired Navy man named Billy Joe Hughes, who was also originally from Oklahoma. They were a good match, and he cherished Hester and Teresa, so they made it official and were married in Reno, Nevada in May of 1974. They lived in Union City until 2001, when they all returned to live in Oklahoma and settled in Purcell. Hester never stopped moving - a wonder woman of sorts. She was a true servant, and gave so much of herself to others. Volunteering was her passion, both as Manager of the Purcell Senior Center and at her church, Emmanuel Baptist. No matter the challenges of each day, she stayed busy taking care of others. She was fun loving and light hearted and truly cared for people. She could talk to anyone about anything, and you walked away knowing it was genuine. Hester often joked that she had to keep going because "old people needed her" - even when she hurt, and even though she was older than many she helped. She was a wonderful mother to Teresa and the best grandmother to Dalton, Cheyne and Kobe. She will be

deeply missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by: her husbands, Gerald St. Clair and Billy Joe Hughes; her parents, Olin and Zula Ellis; brother, Mitchell Ellis and sister, Helen June.

Hester is survived by: her daughter, Teresa Bell and husband Gary of Blanchard; Brother, O.B. Ellis and wife Shirley of Purcell; her pride and joy - her grandkids Dalton Wright, Cheyne Wright and Kobe Bell, and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral Services are scheduled for 2:30 P.M. Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Purcell. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery. Send online condolences @ www.wilsonlittle.com.

Tribute Wall

LP

“ Our organization Professional Recyclers worked with Mrs. Hughes raising funds for the Purcell Sr. Center. It was always a joy to hear her voice when she called to let me know the donation bins were full and our guys needed to pick up. I will always cherish our wonderful conversations and miss her dearly.



May God Bless her family and friends during this time, wrapping them in his arms as they share their memories of this beloved woman.

Lisa Parton - April 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Teresa and Family: I was saddened to hear of your mother's passing. She was such a treasure as a mother and grandmother. My condolences to you and I pray that you will experience peace and love from God above.

Mickey Simpson - April 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Hester was a gem! My family loved her so much. She was always so kind to my mother and they had great times taking care of the nursery at EBC. She will be missed greatly!

Randy Gordon - April 13, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I love Hester. I love how she kept in touch with everyone. Every visit with her was like a history lesson about our family. When we were little girls, she would come to our house on Saturdays and "roll our hair". That was a big help to mama. I will miss her phone calls. Lots of love to her family.

Lana Wilson - April 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Hester Lou was my dad's first cousin. She, her first husband Gerald, and Teresa were such amazing people when they were living in Union City. My dad loved to take us to visit them, and visa versa. I do remember they always had a flocked Christmas tree, which we loved to see each year.



But one of the most important things about Hester Lou was when my dad was dying, she came out to California for about two weeks and stayed with my parents so that she could help my mom care for my dad. That was the epitome of who she was! We have always been so grateful for her help and she'll forever be missed.

God bless and be with her, Gerald, and all the family up in heaven as well as Teresa and her family in Oklahoma.

Tony Hoyt - April 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I loved Hester Lou! She was so much fun to visit with. My sisters and our brother, Dennis, thoroughly enjoyed driving to Purcell to visit with Hester, O.B., and Shirley. We were looking forward to their visit with us in Hoyt in May. We loved hearing her stories about growing up with Aunt Zula and Daddy. She loved our family and we loved her! We will miss her terribly. She was a great lady.

Dana Brown - April 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Oh, how I loved Hester. I will miss her phone calls and visits.

Lana Wilson - April 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Hester was a beautiful loving wife and mother. To young to leave this earth but she is now in Heaven with all that have gone before her. My thoughts and prayers are with Teresa and her family . I know she will truly be missed. ❤️



Kathy Harden - April 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ I enjoyed our visits at the senior center. She was a joy to be around.



Kathy Holsonbake - April 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Hester was such a hard worker and went above and beyond at the Purcell Senior Citizens. She spent hours working on organizing the Garage Sale building! Love you Hester and we'll see you again when it's our turn 😍*

Bonita Brakefield - April 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM