



Opal Payne Walters

January 11, 1934 - October 17, 2020

Opal Payne Walters, passed away peacefully at age 86 in Bryan, Texas of natural causes. She is formerly a resident of Huntsville, Woodville, and Waco, Texas, and was born January 11, 1934, in western Walker County, Texas, near the South Bedias Creek.

This area on FM 1696, now known as the Payne Ranch, as established by her parents in the late 1920s, was the site of a sizable logging operation, sawmill, chair factory (with cowhide), and other ranching and farming operations when Opal was born. At this time, over 100 people lived in the country community, with many residing in tents.

In the late 1940s, Opal moved to Huntsville to attend public school living with her mother who ran a boarding house across the street from Sam Houston State Teachers College.

Active in many organizations, Opal was especially fond of the Future Homemakers of America (FHA). Later in life, one of her favorite stories to tell was about attending the FHA national convention in Kansas City and her historic round-trip train ride.

After graduating from Huntsville High School in 1951, Opal attended Sam Houston State Teachers College where she was active in several organizations, including the Annie Gibbs Society. This is where she met her future husband Milton Walters of Buna, Texas, at a Pioneer Roundup event.

After graduation and marriage in 1955, Opal and Milton moved to Waco. In the 10 years they lived there, Milton worked for the Waco school system, and Opal was mostly a full-time housewife and mom as their only child, Dwayne, was born in 1957. Opal and Milton enjoyed activities with the Speegleville Saddle Club, where they met their life-long friends Sonia and Joe Kendall. As Dwayne got older, in the early 1960s, the family spent less time with horses and more time with church activities and square dancing.

In 1967, Opal, Milton, and Dwayne moved to Woodville to engage in the adventure of running a White's Auto Store franchise. After 3 years with the franchise, Milton moved to teaching Industrial Cooperative Training at the local high school and was joined by Opal teaching Distributive Education for several years. In Woodville, Opal was active in civic and non-profit organizations including The Dogwood Festival and the Methodist Church's Wee Wisdom preschool program.

Opal and Milton moved to Huntsville in 1980 where Milton taught in Huntsville ISD. This move allowed Opal to be closer to her aging mom and to help with family ranching

activities. Over the next twenty plus years, in addition to Opal and Milton building their “dream house”, they also participated in more non-profit and civil organizations, agricultural operations, and were active members in the First Methodist Church. During these years, Opal especially enjoyed RV travel and taking her two grandsons on cross-country adventures as much as possible.

In 2010, after the passing of Milton, Opal moved to the Carriage Inn in Bryan, Texas where she enjoyed the social activities, day trips, musical entertainment, and particularly the church services and hymns. Throughout Opal’s life she engaged in hobbies that were closely related to her college degree in Home Economics; mainly sewing, cooking, and “socializing!”

Preceding Opal in death is her husband of 54 years, Milton Walters (1928-2009), her parents, William Walter. “Bill” and Idelle Strawther Payne, her brother Harold Ray, and her brother and his wife, Billy Don and Lanelle Payne.

Opal is survived by her son and his wife, Dwayne and Diane Walters, her grandsons Brandon and Kent Walters and their spouses, and her Payne family niece and nephews Donnell, Michael, Larry, and Marcus and their spouses. Opal is also survived by numerous relatives and friends throughout Texas and Louisiana, especially in the Brazos, Limestone, Jasper, Tyler, Madison and Walker counties.

Opal was always appreciative of the care and support she received from various organizations, facilities, family members, and friends. The family also wishes to thank the numerous friends and family that have been involved in the lives and care of Opal and Milton. Most recently, grateful appreciation goes out to The Lexington Center, The Carriage Inn, St. Joseph Hospital, St. Joseph Manor, and Hospice Brazos Valley.

Final arrangements have been made with the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Huntsville, Texas. Visitation and viewing will be at the funeral home Friday, October 23 from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. A graveside service for family and close friends will be held at the McAdams Cemetery Saturday, October 24 at 1:30 P.M. Memorial condolences to the family may be made at www.shmfh.com.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family requests donations be made, in Opal’s name, to either the First Methodist Church of Huntsville or Hospice Brazos Valley (non-profit).

<https://huntsvillefirst.org/>

<https://www.hospicebrazosvalley.org/donate>

Cemetery

Events

McAdams

Cemetery

1251 Fm 1696 Rd

W

Crabbs Prairie, TX,

OCT 23 Visitation 04:00PM - 07:00PM

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville

1700 Normal Park Dr., Huntsville, TX, US, 77340

OCT 24 Graveside Service - Masks Required per Family Request 01:30PM

McAdams Cemetery

1251 Fm 1696 Rd W, Crabbs Prairie, TX, US

Comments



“ thinking of you all tonight as you begin your final goodbyes for Opal. Peace to all Nancy and Al

Nancy Heflin - October 23, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your Mother. Love and prayers being sent.
Patrick & Rachel Coveney
Warren & Stacy Cohn



Rachel Coveney - October 23, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ Opal Walters was an amazing woman. She had so much history to share with anyone and everyone she met. She taught my girls how to process corn from the garden. She had a surprise birthday party for me and loved for my children just like a grandmother. She was always at the hospital helping me whenever my family was in need. Milton always by her side. True examples of Christians caring and loving themselves and others throughout life. The Billy Don York family of Crabbs Prairie will never forget all that you and Milton did for us in our time of need. God bless you two in heaven. You will forever be in our hearts. Pam York and family

Pam York - October 21, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ Opal was such a sweet lady. She loved sharing stories of Huntsville and going for walks around Carriage Inn together! Lucky to have known her!

Hannah Farris - October 21, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Opal Payne Walters.



October 20, 2020 at 09:06 PM



“ Milton and Opal were another set of parents for me. GREAT ONES !!! The summers I spent with them in Woodville and Bedias are some of my best memories. Thank you for sharing them Dwayne. Y'all are in my Prayers
Love y'all!!!!

Kent Kendall - October 20, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ Opal was a "Special" lady and will be missed greatly.
Our sincere condolences to the family.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Sincerely,
Jo & Stan Hines

Jo Hines - October 20, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ I enjoyed caring for Opal and listening to her stories about her family. She was a special lady. So sorry for your loss Dwayne and Diane

Wendy Lee - October 20, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ Peace be with you and your family. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Opal Payne Walters.



Peace be with you and your family. - October 20, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ The Salvation Army Staff & Advisory Board purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Opal Payne Walters.



The Salvation Army Staff & Advisory Board - October 20, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ So sorry, Dwayne. Your mom was the perfect Southern women -- sweet and polite but tough as nails. She did a good job raising you!

Nancy Sales - October 20, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Sorry for your loss.



Mellicent Wiley - October 20, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ Dwayne - so sorry to hear of Mrs. Walters' passing. Your Mom and Dad have always been dear to me.

Becky Waldrep Carter - October 20, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ Huey & Phyllis Campbell lit a candle in memory of Opal Payne Walters



Huey & Phyllis Campbell - October 20, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Opal Payne Walters



M. Hyvl - October 19, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ Dwayne and family,
My sincere condolences to you and your family

Lisa Love - October 19, 2020 at 06:09 PM



“ Pat And Sue Sprott lit a candle in memory of Opal Payne Walters



Pat and Sue Sprott - October 19, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Thanks, Opal, for your service to the HHSESA when we developed the organization. May you rest in peace.

Laverne Warner

Laverne Warner - October 20, 2020 at 11:12 AM