



## Mrs. Amos Gates - Mary Elizabeth Brownlee Gates

July 31, 1921 - September 10, 2008

Mrs. Amos Gates—Mary Elizabeth Brownlee Gates, beloved wife of the late Judge Amos A. Gates and mother of Mary Frances Gates Gibbons—passed away on September 10, 2008, at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, Texas. She was the younger sister of Corinne B. (Dub) Young and aunt of Charlyne Young, with whom she lived for several years. They always provided great love and wonderful support and care for her, especially during her last years in Dallas. Another especially important support to her was her devoted granddaughter Ronda “Tweet” Gibbons. She and “Nonnie” had a remarkable friendship.

Known to many as “Sister” and to most of her family as “Nonnie,” she was born on July 31, 1921, in Colfax, Louisiana, to Clara Wells Brownlee and William A. Brownlee. Her father’s work with Kirby Lumber Company took the family to Village Mills and then to Silsbee, Texas, where she grew up. She moved to Huntsville to attend Sam Houston State Teachers College where she was a nationally recognized champion twirler with the Bearkat Band. She and Amos married in 1940 and had a beautiful life together, but people sometimes marveled because they married the day they met. It was truly “love at first sight” Thus, Huntsville was her home from 1940 until 2003 when she moved to Dallas.

Mrs. Gates served as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1 in Walker County for 17 years after Amos’s sudden death in 1983. She was named to serve in his place until the next election. After that, she was elected to the position and—

as Judge Mary Elizabeth Gates—she served the citizens of Precinct 1 well. As a devoted wife and mother, this was the only job she ever held; however, she worked tirelessly as a volunteer to support the Democratic Party throughout her entire life. She enjoyed her work in the JP's office and knew about the rigors and requirements of the job, having learned extensively about state and county laws and regulations from Amos during his 25 years as County Judge of Walker County. Her books always balanced—a fact she was most proud of—and she always did her best to serve her constituents professionally and ethically.

An intelligent woman with a great memory, Judge Gates had been an avid reader and was a huge fan of politics. This year had been especially exciting for her. She was also a wonderful gardener. She knew about all species of plants, especially roses—her favorite—and the proper care of each one. She is also survived by her daughter Mary Frances Gibbons and son-in-law Dr. H. Eugene Gibbons; two granddaughters: Ronda Gibbons and Dr. Wells Gibbons Housson (Dr. Matthew Housson); three great-granddaughters: Elizabeth Brownlee Housson, Catherine Wells Housson, and Anne Frances Housson. She is also survived by Toby Gates, her brother-in-law. Honorary pallbearers are Toby Gates, Dr. Thomas Cole, Dr. Jack Kerr, Darrel White, B.J. Gaines, Dr. Charles Wagamon, and Gene Lockhart.

Interment will be held at 10 AM Tuesday September 16, 2008 at Adickes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery. A memorial mass will be held at 11:30 AM October 11, 20-08 at Saint

Thomas Catholic Church with a reception to follow in the church parish hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests you make a donation to the charity of your choice.

For those wishing to leave condolences for the family they may do so at our website also.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Amos Gates - Mary Elizabeth Brownlee Gates*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *To the all of the Gates family, This world has lost "one tough cookie"....She was a powerhouse! and we so enjoyed her gracious company in Huntsville in bygone days. She is with Amos now! We grieve with you in your loss.*

**Maureen and George Samuels** - October 16, 2008 at 09:28 PM



“ *Dear Mary Frances, Gene, Ronda, Wells, Matthew, Elizabeth, Catherine, Anne Frances, Dub and Charlyne, I so enjoyed and loved the Judge (Mary Elizabeth). It was such a privilege to have had such a classy lady in my life. She inspired me and was a positive role model during my young adult life. It truly was a joy to witness the loving and devoted relationship between she and Amos. She will always be in my heart and memories. God bless each of you. With sympathy, Sandy Glisson*

**Sandy Glisson** - October 10, 2008 at 10:31 AM



“ *Mary Frances, So sorry to read about your Mom passing. Your Mother and Dad were very special to my Mother and Dad. May the Lord be with you and your family in your time of sorrow.*

**Beverly Conner Niederhofer** - September 22, 2008 at 04:56 PM

MS

“ Dear Mary Frances, I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your beautiful mother. I have such fond memories of her. She was so pretty, perfectly groomed, and always had a lovely smile on her face. She and Amos were great favorites of my parents. My deepest sympathy goes out to you. It is never easy to lose a beloved parent.

Love,  
Montie Belle

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**Montie and Dan Shelton** - September 20, 2008 at 03:21 PM

SE

“ Dear Mary Frances and family, please know that our love and sympathy are with you at this time. Your mother was always so friendly when she came into the store and we so enjoyed her visits with us. We extend our love, sympathy, hugs to you and to your family.

Sunny and Bob Ernst

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**Sunny and Bob Ernst** - September 19, 2008 at 11:32 PM

JB

“ We are very sorry for your loss and please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Judge & Mrs. Gates were longtime friends of my father, Curtis Ellisor, and they both were respected & loved by our family. Please remember all the good times and knowing that she is now at peace being reunited with Amos. God Bless Your Family.

Jamie Ellisor Brinegar

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**Jamie Ellisor Brinegar** - September 16, 2008 at 11:05 AM

SV

“ Dear Mary Frances, Gene, Ronda, Wells, Matthew, Elizabeth, Catherine, Anne Frances, Dub and Charlyne,  
We are thinking of you and praying that you will be able to find peace and comfort during this difficult time of sadness and loss.  
Much Love, Susan and Jim

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**Susan and Jim Varner** - September 13, 2008 at 01:47 PM

EH

“ Dear Charlyne and Mrs. Young,

*Please know that I send warm thoughts and prayers to your family that the good Lord will bless you and keep you close in your time of sorrow.*

*Ellen Hook*

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**Ellen Hook** - September 12, 2008 at 12:52 PM

TV

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Darrell, Terri and Monica Viana and Barbara Chick (mom) are thinking about you and praying for the family.

*Sister was a remarkable women and I know you will miss her.*

*May God give you peace and comfort knowing that sister is home.*

*Love,  
Terri V.*

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**Terri Viana** - September 12, 2008 at 11:21 AM



“ *Mrs. Amos Gates - Mary Elizabeth Brownlee Gates*

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September 11, 2008 at 05:40 PM