



Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead

May 20, 1934 - July 21, 2017

Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead

Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me.
E. Dickinson

Anita Joyce Gilstrap was born May 20, 1934, in Marshall, Texas to C.H. (Sam) Gilstrap and Hazel H. Gilstrap. She died July 21, 2017 in Huntsville, Texas.

Completing her public school education, Anita graduated from Huntsville High School. In 1952, she married Robert Wilbourn Olmstead. They had three sons, Robert, Timothy and Mark.

Robert and Anita moved to Pasadena, Texas in 1952 to raise their family. While balancing an active family life with three young sons, Anita enrolled in Sam Houston State fulfilling a desire to continue learning. She completed both a Bachelor's and Master's degree choosing English as her major, also earning a teaching certification. Upon graduating in 1963, Anita immediately accepted a job at South Houston High School in the Pasadena, Texas ISD.

In 1964, Anita followed a new principal, Carter Lomax, to join the original faculty for the new high school, Sam Rayburn, in Pasadena, where she taught

English. After many years of teaching, she became the language supervisor for PISD for the remainder of her career.

After retiring in 1996, Anita moved back to Huntsville and started using her talents in other areas: a voracious reader, she was a founder of The Book Club in 1996; she was a master at needlework and worked day and night to create the most unusual landscape at her home in Elkins Lake.

Anita was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wilbourn Olmstead, her parents, C.H. (Sam) Gilstrap and Hazel H. Gilstrap, and longtime friend, Sylvia Bell.

Anita is survived by her family: Bob, Harriet, Robert and Taylor Olmstead, Lynn Haven, FL, Timothy A. Olmstead, Houston, TX, Mark & Sara Olmstead, Katy, TX, Mike Olmstead, Brian Olmstead and family, Heather Miller and family, Gretchen Brian and family, her sister DeAnna Gideon, niece and nephews and their families: Sabrina Hamilton, Gene Skidmore, Mike Skidmore and Brett Skidmore.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 10:30 am on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville, TX.

“That is happiness; to be dissolved into something complete and great.”

Those wishing to leave condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

Huntsville, TX

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL **26**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Oakwood Cemetery
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead.*



July 25, 2017 at 03:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead.*



July 25, 2017 at 10:16 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead.*



July 25, 2017 at 10:02 AM

JC

“ John, Karen, Philip, and Casandra purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead.



John, Karen, Philip, and Casandra - July 25, 2017 at 08:42 AM

RB

“ I merely recognized Mrs. Olmstead in the English hallway at Sam Rayburn High School during my years there. A Rayburnite in the late 1960's, I knew that Sylvia Bell, my homeroom teacher throughout high school, was more than a professional colleague of Mrs. Olmstead. They were not just fellow English teachers; they were friends. Years later, in the mid-1980's, my relationship with Mrs. Olmstead changed when I became a new high school English teacher for Pasadena ISD. By that time, Anita was the Language Supervisor for Pasadena ISD. She and I were then colleagues. Occasionally working with and periodically seeing Anita in her professional capacity for the next thirteen years was wonderful. I extend my condolences to the Olmstead family and others missing Anita. It's gratifying to know that Anita and Sylvia will be together in the timeless tranquility of Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville, Texas.

Richard Brear - July 25, 2017 at 08:39 AM

RG

“ Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Olmstead's family. We didn't have much of an opportunity to get to know her as well as we would have liked but none the less we enjoyed the time we had. God bless and comfort each and every one of you mourning her passing.

*R. Garrett PTA
Creekside Therapy Team*

R. Garrett - July 24, 2017 at 02:08 PM



“ *Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anita Joyce Gilstrap Olmstead.*



July 24, 2017 at 12:30 PM



“ *I want to send my deepest condolences to Bob and Harriet Olmstead, as well as the entire family for your loss. . I also want you to know how very much Mrs. Olmstead meant to me, as she was not only my English teacher for 2 different years, she was also my homeroom teacher at Sam Rayburn High for all 4 years of my high school career. She was a compassionate, caring teacher with a delightful sense of humor and beautiful smile. She made quite an impact not only on me, but also many other of my classmates. I was totally delighted to be able to visit with her recently because of Harriet, and I appreciate and love that I have that sweet memory. I will be praying for you all that GOD wrap HIS arms of grace, peace, and consolation around you as you grieve the loss. But how comforting to know that to be absent from the body is to be present with the LORD! GOD bless you all.... Annie Miller*

Annie A Miller - July 22, 2017 at 06:43 PM