



Betty Gene Herlong

July 15, 1929 - July 4, 2019

Betty Gene Turner Herlong was born on July 15, 1929 in Marshall, TX to Marion Calloway Turner and Mary Alyce Gibson Turner and passed away on July 4, 2019 in The Woodlands, TX at the age of 89. Betty grew up during the Great Depression and was raised by her parents, grandmother, and her mother's siblings. She enjoyed taking piano lessons and worked as a piano accompanist for several churches, starting at the age of twelve. Betty graduated from Longview High School in 1945 as Class Salutatorian and received a Methodist Foundation Scholarship to attend Centenary College in Shreveport, LA. While attending Centenary, Betty majored in Elementary Education and enjoyed singing in the Centenary Choir, graduating in 1949.

Betty met L.K. Herlong, Jr. after he returned from WWII while both were enrolled as students at Centenary. They were married on March 24, 1948 and enjoyed 50 years of marriage before his death in 1998. For many years, L.K. worked in management for J.C. Penney. Their first home was in Bossier City, LA, before later moving to Alexandria, LA, and then on to Huntsville, TX in 1964. They joined the First United Methodist Church where Betty sang in the adult choir, directed the children's choir, participated in the Treble Aires singing group, and served as Chairman of the Committee on Worship.

Betty was an accomplished pianist and taught private piano lessons in her home to students of all ages. For over 10 years, she was a teacher for

Reading and GED for the Windham School District. Betty served as Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission of Huntsville and helped with the restoration of the art facades on the downtown buildings. She was also an active member of the DAR Society.

Betty will be most fondly remembered by her family and friends for her faith in God, service to her church, love for music, and her thoughtfulness, cheerfulness, and wonderful sense of humor. She showered her family with beautiful music each day in their home. Betty's special gift was music and she used it to glorify God in all aspects of her life.

Betty is survived by her children: L. K. Herlong, III, Dennis Herlong, Claire Herlong Meador and husband, Tom, and Scott Herlong and wife, Lea; and grandchildren: Adrienne Meador, Travis Meador, Aidan Herlong, Andrew Herlong, Ryan Herlong, and Nathan Herlong, all of the Houston area; her aunt Norma Weathersby Goulston, cousins: Harriet Whatley and husband, Owen, Don McCaa and wife, Janet, Chris McCaa and wife, Tina, Dennis Reed and wife, Patsyann, and their families; and numerous nieces and nephews. Special friends include Francis Adams, Mark and Missy Adams, Gradylene Pate, and Charles and Madison Thompson.

Betty's family extends special thanks and appreciation to her Caregivers, Tracy Bomer and Gloria LeBlanc, STAT Home Health Care, and the medical community for all the support and love shown to Betty.

Visitation will be held on Friday, July 12 from 5 -7pm at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, July 13 at 11am, at the Sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church with a reception following in the Community Life Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Choir Scholarship Fund of

the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville, TX.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **12.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfh.com

Memorial Service

JUL **13.** 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
1016 Sam Houston Ave
Huntsville, TX 77320-3999
(936) 295-5441

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Gene Herlong*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Trisha Aker lit a candle in memory of Betty Gene Herlong*



Trisha Aker - July 16, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ *There are so many memories that I have of Mrs. Herlong. We spent many hours together over a span of eight years in her home playing the piano and the harpsichord. I took lessons from her from ages 10-18. I clearly remember the sound of her sweet voice and smile every time I think of her.*

As to a specific memory of Mrs. Herlong this would have to be when we played a four part invention on two grand pianos on the second floor of Old Main Building on SHSU's campus. It was an unbelievable honor to be on stage with such an accomplished pianist and she chose me to play with her. You'd had to pinch me for surely this was a dream!

Mrs. Herlong has been such an inspiration in my life as a person and as a musician. I have been very blessed to know her and spend so much time making music together.

-Kathleen Love

Kathleen Love - July 12, 2019 at 05:37 PM



“ *Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Gene Herlong.*



July 11, 2019 at 05:06 PM



“ *Cheryl McLaughlin Washington lit a candle in memory of Betty Gene Herlong*



Cheryl McLaughlin Washington - July 11, 2019 at 03:43 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Gene Herlong.*



July 11, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ *Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of Betty Gene Herlong*



Charlotte Efird - July 10, 2019 at 08:14 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Betty Gene Herlong.*



July 10, 2019 at 12:00 PM



“ *Betty was our neighbor and taught my three girls piano lessons until we left Huntsville to live in Austin. She was a talented musician that gladly shared her talents with all her students. My girls loved taking piano lessons so much from her that I never had to tell them to practice. They wanted to please her so much that in fact I had to buy a timer so each girl would get equal time practicing her piano homework for Mrs. Herlong. We all loved her dearly.*

Veronica Covington - July 09, 2019 at 11:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Betty Gene Herlong.*



July 09, 2019 at 10:11 AM



“ *Mrs. Herlong has been a part of my family for many years. She and my Mother Kathryn Mckee were best friends. Now they are together singing in Heaven's choir. My thoughts and prayers are with Claire and family. Rhonda Mckee Mauldin*

Rhonda Mauldin - July 08, 2019 at 01:29 AM

GG

“ Betty was one of the first Huntsvillians who extended her special charm and warmth to me as a student at Sam. She was gracious and comforted a kid who was away from home for the first time. Blessings to the family.

Greg Gathright - July 07, 2019 at 03:55 PM

JJ

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of Betty. My prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Jeannine Jacoby - July 07, 2019 at 02:25 PM

SS

“ Sue And Pat Sprott lit a candle in memory of Betty Gene Herlong



Sue and Pat Sprott - July 07, 2019 at 01:31 PM

MH

“ M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Betty Gene Herlong



M. Hyvl - July 07, 2019 at 11:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Betty Gene Herlong.*



July 06, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ *Please know that the Robinson girls have you in our prayers. May God give you comfort and rest . Carol Byrd, Jan Rogers, Donna Paschall and Mary Roe*



Donna Paschall - July 06, 2019 at 06:08 PM



*Precious Aunt Betty, Heaven bound and always in my heart across time. Comfort to my cousins L K and Dennis and Scott and Claire and families. Betty's piano work and drama are memorials. Also loved hearing her stories including anecdotes from her time as "their fearless leader" at Huntsville Ellis 1. Such a feisty lady with Southern charm!
Love Linda Herlong Jackson*

Linda Herlong Jackson - July 09, 2019 at 03:47 AM