



Cornelia Robertson

July 3, 1919 - June 24, 2024

Cornelia Emma Wetzel Robertson (1919 – 2024)

Cornelia Wetzel Robertson passed away peacefully at her home in Huntsville, Texas with her daughters by her side on June 24, 2024, one week before her 105th birthday.

Cornelia was born to Harry Scott and Emmie Powell Wetzel on July 3, 1919, in Marlin, Texas. She grew up in Galveston and Freeport, Texas, and graduated Salutatorian at age 16 from Freeport High School. She went on to graduate cum laude from Southwestern University with a degree in music at age 19. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority; Pi Gamma Mu, National Social Science Honor Society; and Alpha Chi, National College Honor Society.

Cornelia's first job was teaching music in Thorndale, Texas. One of her fondest memories was of wobbling across a freshly-plowed field in high heels to meet the school superintendent (the interview was a success, and she got the job). Cornelia was a chemist at Dow Chemical during World War II, and went on to serve as Director of the Junior Red Cross in Galveston. She received her Masters of Education degree in 1948 from the University of Houston.

Following the war, Cornelia married her childhood sweetheart Foster Marshall Robertson. She spent the next 24 years traveling the world at Marshall's side, still wearing high heels and with three children in tow. They lived throughout

the United States, France, and England, as well as Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and India. Cornelia was a pioneer in the early age of air travel. She loved vacationing through Europe and sharing stories about her family's adventures abroad.

Cornelia lost the love of her life when Marshall unexpectedly passed away in 1971. She returned to the Brazosport area to teach first and second grade in Freeport and Lake Jackson. She was an active member and officer of Daughters of the American Revolution; Daughters of the Republic of Texas; United Daughters of the Confederacy; and Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional women's education society.

After becoming reacquainted at a 'Black and Gold' Freeport High School reunion, Cornelia married Ed McKee in 1982. They lived in Brazoria, Texas, and traveled the US and Canada together. Following their divorce in 1992, Cornelia moved to Clearwater, Florida, to be near her daughter Ilyse. While there, she met Timothy Lorden with whom she had a long, fun, and loving relationship before his passing in 2007. Cornelia had always talked about "retiring" to Texas, and in 2015 at age 96 she finally moved to Huntsville to be near her daughter Emmy.

Throughout her life, Cornelia was passionate about dancing¹⁰ and was a Master Bridge player. She led an active social life with countless friends made along the way. She was a notorious chocoholic and kept a stash of chocolate bars in her bureau drawer, out of reach of the kids. She never failed to look on the bright side of any situation she found herself in. "I just laugh, and I never remember the bad times." Cornelia was happiest when she was with her family and getting ready for the next move to a new country or state. A unique woman for her generation, with an advanced degree and no interest or ability to cook.

Cornelia was preceded in death by her parents Emmie Powell and Harry Scott Wetzel; husband Foster Marshall Robertson; son John Scott Robertson; and sister Corine Wetzel Strickland. She is survived by her daughters, Emmy Robertson Bushman (Darrell) and Ilyse Robertson Sauer (Mark); daughter-in-law, Gemma Navarro Robertson; granddaughter Alice Bushman Pavlak (Michael); nephew Lamar Scott "Jeb" Strickland (Judy); and cousin Donald AbdAllah Powell Cole.

The family offers their deepest gratitude to the staff of the Assisted Living at The Carriage Inn, Divine Life Change Home Care, and Devotion Hospice and Palliative Care. Their attention and loving care made Cornelia's last years happy ones. A private graveside service will be held at Restwood Memorial Park in Clute, Texas.

Memorial condolences may be made at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall

GL

“ *My prayers and condolences for the family*



Glender - July 09, 2024 at 10:03 PM

IS

Thank you so much ❤️

Ilyse Sauer - July 14, 2024 at 10:46 AM

AM

“ *Alan Weddell and Charlotte Weddell Mains purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Cornelia Robertson.*



Alan Weddell and Charlotte Weddell Mains - July 03, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Video Memories Album*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - July 02, 2024 at 01:46 PM

BP

Such an accomplished woman!! And so sweet to top it off!!! One of her stylist at Carriage Inn, (Betty)

Betty Philips - July 08, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ 24 files added to the album Memories Album



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - July 02, 2024 at 01:46 PM

MH

“ Marvin Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Cornelia Robertson



Marvin Hyvl - July 02, 2024 at 11:34 AM

IS

Thank you so much, Marvin

Ilyse Sauer - July 07, 2024 at 01:02 PM

BT

“ *Ms. Cornelia was a fiery soul. I had the pleasure of working with her family and overseeing care for Ms. Cornelia. Rest easy my friend. She almost made it to 105!! Brandi Taylor (former Carriage Inn nurse)*

BRANDI Taylor - July 02, 2024 at 10:14 AM

IS

Thank you for taking such good care of mother when you were there at Carriage Inn. We appreciate you!

Ilyse Sauer - July 07, 2024 at 01:03 PM

NG

“ *Mrs. Robertson, was my second grade teacher at Velasco Elementary School in Freeport. She was always so kind to all the students her smile made your day so much better! May perpetual light shine a upon her!*

Norma Moreno Garcia

Norma Garcia - July 02, 2024 at 09:09 AM

MW

Cornelia was a delightful person and reading her life story...wow! Such a blessing to have known her.

Mary Waters - July 02, 2024 at 10:11 AM

IS

Thank you so much. She was an inspiration. There is a video and photos on this website now :)

Ilyse Sauer - July 02, 2024 at 05:58 PM

BP

Oh Wow!! Wish I had known her earlier!! Loved visiting with her & doing her hair in the Carriage Inn. So sorry for your loss! Such an inspiration to have known her! ❤️❤️❤️. Loved the video & learning even more about her life! Thank you for sharing!!

Betty Philips - July 05, 2024 at 02:54 PM

IS

Thank you Norma. Mother loved all the children she taught and missed it after she retired. She really had a gift :)

Ilyse Sauer - July 07, 2024 at 01:04 PM