



## Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro

August 22, 1943 - December 29, 2024

Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro went to be with the Lord on December 29th, 2024. She was born August 22nd, 1943 in North Port, Alabama. She was raised there by her Aunt & Uncle OlaMae and Chester Cork and then moved to Huntsville in 1967, soon after she met Thomas and began her family and career.

Ginny and her Husband Thomas began their careers as Restaurateurs in 1970 in Huntsville with "The Lamplighter Room". This is where they made their mark with people in the community by serving amazing food and a strong work ethic. A man named Ed Sandhop was instrumental with their startup and helped them take advantage of opportunities to grow their name and business. Then they purchased the "Cafe Texan" in 1972. Working with a chef named Bishop, they honed their craft. The menu they created was a staple there decades after they sold the business. "Casa Tomas" which had locations all over east Texas was their biggest name in food. "Geppetto's" Italian restaurant in Huntsville. There, they worked with Damian Mandola who is one of the most successful restaurateurs around. "Renfreaux's Seafood" in Huntsville, "Yvonne's on the Bayou" a cajun restaurant in Bryan TX and "Sweets and Eats" on the downtown square in Huntsville.

Ginny had a natural talent and gift for creating concepts and menus for all their businesses. Chances are if you're reading this, that you've tried her food. Her vision and drive, is what propelled them to be successful for 50 plus years. She not only touched so many lives with her food, her kind nature and

care for all people, changed the lives of those who worked for her. So many people can attribute their success to Ginny and Thomas, who did their best to build up people and help them become successful in their own lives.

As wonderful and talented as she was in the restaurant business, her true passion was her family. She was preceded in death by her husband Thomas Ray Renfro, and her great granddaughter Laila Blake Koerselman. She is survived by two daughters Robin Duke and her husband Mike, Karen Koerselman and her husband Brian, and a son Zak Renfro. Surviving grandchildren are Mandi Cooper and husband David, Jamie Sanders and husband Jason, Katie Duke and fiancé Cody Slater, Blake Koerselman and wife Clarissa, Tori Tinklepaugh and wife Shelby Tinklepaugh, and Barrett Koerselman. Great Grandchildren Ethan Duke, Cameron Cooper, Collin Sanders, Tate Sanders, Lynlee Duke and Brixton Tinklepaugh

Her love for her family and all children guided her life. Everyone gravitated to her kind nature and nurturing ways. There was not a more kindhearted and giving person. Her selfless nature has left an everlasting impact on her family and those she touched. Her imprint on her family will be felt for generations to come. She was a guiding light for those who knew her.

A visitation will be held on Friday, January 3, 2025 from 5-7pm at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville. She will be laid to rest at the family homestead on January 4, 2025. Memorial condolences may be made to the family at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr.  
Huntsville, TX 77340

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Ginny. She was a beautiful lady and loved by so many.*

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**Betty Kirkland** - January 10, 2025 at 02:32 PM

JE

“ *I met Ginny when she and Tom lived next to Father O'Brian at the Walls unit. They were always wonderful friends. I watched Zack grow up!!! She will be missed. Wonderful person. Judy Emmett*

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**Judy T Emmett** - January 06, 2025 at 10:28 AM

MS

“ *My memories of Ginny go back to 1975.... Her kind eyes....always a smile...always feeding and entertaining folks in such a way to make them feel as if they were sitting at her kitchen table....in recent years we would enjoy a chat, exchanging stories of children, grandchildren, at Blake's Farm House Coffee and Cream. My heart goes out to those she kept tucked under her wing. May her memory bless you in your mourning. May your grief move through you gently. Maureen and George Samuels*

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**Maureen Samuels** - January 04, 2025 at 08:48 PM

CE

“ *Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro*



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**Charlotte Efird** - January 03, 2025 at 09:33 PM

SW

“ Ginny and Thomas gave me my first job out of college in 1981 as manager at the famous 1st Casa Tomas restaurant. I will always remember the guidance and patience Ginny had with me as I grew as a young working woman in probably one of the most tremendously successful and busy restaurants for miles around at time. She (and Thomas) will stay in my heart forever. May God comfort all who knew her and will miss her strength and wisdom.

Stacy Wagner - January 03, 2025 at 11:27 AM

NH

“ My deepest condolences for the Renfro family. May Ms. Ginny rest in peace.



Nancy Hopper - January 03, 2025 at 10:53 AM

MF

“ My prayers to the family and friends of Delorice Renfro for comfort, healing and strength from our Lord Jesus Christ. I especially enjoyed the Cafe Texan for many years meeting some many there sharing memories that will not be forgotten sharing time and meals together.



Marvin Hyvl & Family - January 03, 2025 at 10:39 AM

CP

“ Chris Peter purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro.



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Chris Peter - January 02, 2025 at 09:20 PM

CP

“ Chris Peter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro.

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Chris Peter - January 02, 2025 at 09:20 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro.



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January 02, 2025 at 04:50 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro.



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January 02, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Delorice Virginia "Ginny" Renfro.

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January 02, 2025 at 03:50 PM