



## Ester Mae Lehman

March 12, 1910 - January 26, 2014

ONE OF OUR OLDEST CITIZENS ESTER LEHMAN – 103 Ester Mae Huffines “Nannie” Lehman, age 103 died Tuesday the 21st of January 2014 at her home surrounded by family and special loving caretakers. Ester was born March 12th 1910 on a cotton farm near Turkey, Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband Reuben Lloyd Lehman. She is survived by her six children, RL Lehman Jr. and wife May, Elouise Caskey, Wilma Gaylor – Don, Milton Lehman, Travis Lehman, and Joe Lehman – Jackie. Her life was blessed by a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Ester was a unique person in many special ways. She was the youngest of four children – two brothers and a sister. At the age of ten, with her mother sick and incapacitated – she ran the farm house – she “made the beds and set the rules,” cooked the food not only for the family but farm hands that came to pick cotton. As a teenager Ester was in charge as her father would tell the others “check with Ester.” But in her rapid maturing teenage years the man from Leon Prairie came with a group to pick cotton. He liked her cooking and how she would bring him cool water and a big smile. For the next two years he returned and her father noticed how Ester waved to and favored this young man. Then, when there was no cotton to be picked, he returned to marry his favorite cook the pretty girl who flirted with him as he tried to work. In 1928 at the age of 18, Ester married Mr. Reuben Lloyd Lehman. Their first son was born in 1929 and was followed by two girls, one in 1932 and one in 1933. In the depth of the depression of 1934 the family

moved to Leon Prairie where they joined Reuben's parents, four brothers and his twin sister. The family survived the struggles of our depression and maintained close knit family continuity until the years of WWII. Reuben was deferred to run the farm and others departed for overseas duties. During the war years Ester's family expanded with the birthing of three boys – Milton, Travis and Joe. With war behind them and returnees forming their own families conditions abruptly changed in 1946 when fire destroyed their home. The next year with few belongings, seeking better education and a nearness to Sam Houston College for their family of six children, Ester and Reuben moved to Huntsville. The wisdom of this decision is well documented in Huntsville life, Huntsville High School and Sam Houston College athletic programs. Mr. Lehman was a dedicated employee of Mr. Finis Larrison at his Auto Parts store. Mr. Larrison maintained a time honored relationship with Ester. With her children in high school, Ester started a babysitting home business. She always seemed to have a special talent for managing children; she loved them and they responded with love and eagerness to return to "Nannie's" house. In 1978 her wonderful husband – the man from Leon Prairie died. Ester, accustomed to adversity and hard knocks of life, was determined to be self-sufficient; she greatly expanded her babysitting enterprise. As a result, today spread across the State and Country are her new children and their children's children, who along with many people who knew her, fondly called her – Nannie. She lived a simple Christian life and took pride in saying she had never smoked or used tobacco and whiskey had never crossed her lips plus – she didn't pick cotton. Her philosophy was if you can't do anything about it- forget it. She did not have time to get angry or be upset with people. But she always had an uncanny highly developed art of getting things accomplished NOW Throughout her life Nannie has been known for her love, her laughter and sometimes outrageous tricks played on friends and love ones. She welcomed everyone to her home and after she hugged you she wanted to know what you would like to eat. In her final year she suffered physical pain and frailties of old age – but not the

disappointments, heartaches or needs to complain. Her oldest son is now 84 and the youngest of her six children is 68. She is blessed with the loving respect and appreciation of 12 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 9 great-great grandchildren. Her son Travis became a live-in-son for 15 years thereby allowing Ester to enjoy life in her own home. Additionally, she was helped by very special professional caretakers who not only met her medical needs but brought much love and joy to her life. Also, there was the special blessing of her dear friend Sedalia Irving who for nine years cared for her with never ending love – played checkers and calls her “Mamma”. Now, we all -in memory’s eye- will see her wonderful smile, her sense of humor and tingle with our blessing of her extended life miracle. Ester, her family and friends acknowledge the great Doctors, Nurses and medical care she received. But, Ester accredited her long life not to medical care, treadmills or exercise, but to God whom she believed was in charge of both her living and her dying. Her faith, peace and love she lived took her where she is today and will always be a guide post for each of us. Ester Lehman – was a glorious 103 year old lady we all loved respected and appreciated and called Mother, Nannie and Grandmother. Her funeral service will be 2:00 PM Sunday the 26th at The Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, 1700 Normal Park, Huntsville, TX. Family visitation and body in state will be at The Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Saturday evening 6:00 to 8:00 PM. A family interment program is planned for 4:30 PM at Evans Chapel Leona, TX. Memorial condolences to the family may be made at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ester Mae Lehman*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all our Lehman cousins on the passing your mother. Aunt Checher (as we called her) was an amazing lady and was loved by so many people.*

*With loving thoughts,  
Whitney Gadeke-Andrews and Family - Mike, Jackson & Sarah*

**Whitney Gadeke-Andrews** - January 27, 2014 at 09:04 AM



“ *Our deepest Sympathy to Milton and his Family.*

**Cecile & Danny Hunsucker** - January 26, 2014 at 03:26 PM



“ *Seems just like yesterday that my brother used to walk to your house...we were neighbors on old Hwy 75..we spent many afternoons after school at your house...you were so blessed to have your mom for so long..My thoughts and prayers are with you*

**Mary Beth Van Horn** - January 25, 2014 at 09:47 PM

SE

“ I am so grateful to have had the privilege of knowing Nannie. We had many good times with her and she was such a wonderful friend for my Mother & Sister. Nannie was a unique person and young at heart. When I think of her it is always with laughter or a smile. She was a remarkable lady and I will never forget her. God bless family and friends.

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**Sue Vermillion Ellisor** - January 25, 2014 at 02:03 PM

BR

“ A person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, for they are still alive in our hearts and minds, through us, they live on. Please accept my condolences.

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**Barbara Cobb Rushing** - January 25, 2014 at 09:39 AM

SM

“ Prayers for comfort and peace to the Lehman Family.

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**Sandy Murphy** - January 24, 2014 at 06:35 PM

BN

“ Milton, Travis and the Lehman family. Sorry to read of the passing of your Mom. I know you have some good memories from years past. She has had an impact on many lives. My prayers and thoughts will be with you during your time of sorrow.

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**Beverly Conner Niederhofer** - January 23, 2014 at 11:16 AM

MC

“ Such a sweet, sweet lady.

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**Mark Chalker** - January 23, 2014 at 09:44 AM

MJ

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We have been praying for Nannie and her family. Nannie was a wonderful Christian lady. She never smoked, drank, cussed. She never said anything bad about anyone. She always looked for the good in everyone. She was the oldest member of our church, Grace Baptist. She gave birth to six wonderful children. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother. She was a wonderful "Huntsville Grandmothe" to all four of my children. She was a very dear friend to me. We all loved her dearly. She will be missed. She had been a wonderful example to so many to learn from. She helped so many people. She will be dearly missed.  
RIP Nannie

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**Mellicent Sikes Wiley & Bobby II, Heather & Jason, Heath. Justin & Joanna -**  
January 23, 2014 at 09:27 AM

LR

“ Miss Wilma, thank you so very much for letting me come into Miss Ester's home and letting me also take care of her. You and your family are just wonderful .Miss Ester had the best group of caregivers I have seen in years .The girls were just wonderful with her. She must had been something in her day!! You and all will miss her. Remember just talk to her now instead of calling her, Not the same I know but she will hear you Thank you for allowing her to come home before she went home to the Lord. You all did a great job!! She would be proud! Linda Rutledge Thee Hospice

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**Linda Rutledge -** January 23, 2014 at 09:27 AM