



## Ila Earle Gaines

February 17, 1925 - March 14, 2017

Ila Earle Gaines slipped away to her Heavenly Father on March 14, 2017 at her home in Huntsville, Texas. She was born to Tollie Roy Gaines and Willie Mable Petree Gaines on February 17, 1925 in Huntsville. She lived most of her early years on the Smither Farm located on FM 980 where her father was the foreman. After graduating from Huntsville High School she eloped with her one true love, Lewis Gaines, Sr., on August 1, 1942. They were blessed with almost 74 years together and shared a love that only grew stronger as the years went by. They made their home in Huntsville and raised two children Lewis Henry Gaines, Jr. and Carolyn Ann Gaines.

Ila worked in payroll for Texas Department of Corrections for many years and then was of great value in establishing and overseeing the Credit Union for TDC employees. Upon retirement from TDC she went to work beside her husband at the jointly owned Key Printing & Office Supply where she continued to serve the community of Huntsville.

Ila Gaines was a woman of incredible energy, unwavering loyalty and total commitment to her family, community and her church. She led with a servant's heart in capacities too numerous to include them all. Never one to refuse a request to participate, she served eight years on the Huntsville City Council, chaired the General Sam Houston Folk Festival, Huntsville Trail of Lights, Huntsville Education Foundation and led a majority of the clubs and

organizations in the city. She was honored as Citizen of the Year, Best Dressed Woman in Huntsville and recognized as Huntsville Lady of the Year by Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Ila was equally involved in the life of First Baptist Church for over 58 years. Many past and present members can attest that she led by example. She shared her servant heart as the teacher of Joy Sunday School Class for over 50 years and offered wise counsel, warm comfort and much love to many Joy Class members. Her ability to host the perfect social event is legend and the words "Ila wouldn't do it that way" are spoken even today.

She has been reunited in Heaven with her parents; her brother Tollie Roy Gaines, Jr. and wife LaRue Fannin Gaines; sister Mattie Ethel Flynt and husband Loyd Flynt; her beloved husband Lewis Henry Gaines, Sr.; and her much loved son Lewis Henry Gaines, Jr.

She is survived by her daughter Carolyn Ann Gaines; daughter-in-law Mary Gaines; granddaughters Cindy Grant (Tim), Kelly Vergimini (Daniel) and Kelly Corliss (Jeff); grandsons Clayton Gaines and Jamie Mulligan; great-grandsons Tyler Decker, Jackson Gaines, Jake Holden (Caitlin), Corey Holden (Stormey) and Mason Holden; and great-granddaughter Madison Gaines. She also leaves nieces, nephews and other family to mourn her loss.

Ila was laid to rest beside her husband at Brooke Cemetery on Friday, March 17, 2017 in a private family service.

A memorial service to celebrate her incredible life will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, March 20, 2017 at First Baptist Church with the Reverend Carrol Williams and Reverend Jason Bay officiating. The family will receive friends in the chapel at First Baptist Church beginning at 10:00 AM.

Those wishing to honor her memory may do so by giving to First Baptist Church Projector Project or to the charity of their choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Huntsville  
1229 Ave J  
Huntsville, TX

## Service

MAR 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Huntsville  
1229 Ave J  
Huntsville, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ila Earle Gaines*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Carolyn,*  
*My heart breaks for you and the entire Gaines family. I am sure Ila is now running events in Heaven and keeping Lewis and Lewis Jr. busy and joyous with her projects.*  
*Not a week goes by that I don't think of how wonderful and kind Miss Ila was to me and everyone around her. My thoughts are with you. Love, Pam*

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**Pamela Price** - July 25, 2017 at 07:42 PM



“ *My condolences to the family during this difficult time. I am truly sorry for your loss. Please find comfort and hope in God's promise found at Rev 21: 3, 4.*

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**Rhonda Gray** - March 24, 2017 at 10:10 PM

MW

“ *Ila Gaines was one of sweetest Christian ladies I have ever known. She served her Lord in many ways. She loved her husband, children and grandchildren. She cared about Huntsville, TX and all who live here. She went out of her way to help others. She was a wonderful business lady. I had the pleasure of knowing her in several different areas in which she served. Each time I had one of my four children, she helped me create a cute and different type of birth announcement before they were born. She was one of the best dressed ladies I have ever known. You never saw Ila with a hair out of place. She was a beautiful person on the inside and out. She will be missed dearly by her remaining family, friends, church and citizens of Huntsville. I know she was greeted by her Lord, her husband, her son and many friends that have gone before her in Heaven.* ”



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**Mellicent Sikes Wiley** - March 21, 2017 at 04:28 PM

BC

“ *Bridgette Neeley Clay lit a candle in memory of Ila Earle Gaines* ”



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**Bridgette Neeley Clay** - March 21, 2017 at 07:54 AM

MH

“ *My prayers to I the family of Ila Gaines. May our Lord give you the peace and comfort only that He can provide, Ila Gaines was a sweet lady who cared about our community and those she met. She cared so much about others. She will be missed.* ”

*M. Hyvl*

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**M. Hyvl** - March 19, 2017 at 08:58 AM

LP


“ *Rest in peace Mrs. Gaines. Heaven has gained another special angel.*

*the family of Gene and Syble Holly*



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**Leighnae Poole** - March 17, 2017 at 06:48 PM

 Charlotte Efird

“ *Gaines family. I was so sorry to hear about Ila's passing.*



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**Charlotte Efird** - March 17, 2017 at 11:38 AM

DP

“ *Donna Paschall*



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**Donna Paschall** - March 17, 2017 at 07:22 AM

DP

“ *The family of the late Dick and Maudie Robinson and Steve Robinson send our prayers at this sad time. We all have many great memories of the Gaines family. May God give you peace, comfort, and rest. Carol and Richard Byrd, Jan and Tom Rogers, Donna and Walter Paschall, Mary and Nathan Roe*

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**Donna Paschall** - March 17, 2017 at 07:20 AM

DT

“ To the family of Ila Gaines. Huntsville has lost a beautiful flower in the city of Huntsville. I remember Lewis and Ila were two of the first people we met when we moved to Huntsville in 1964. Ila and my husband, James worked together for a number of years in T.D.C. at that time. Also, I can remember many trips we made to Key Print to the old Key Print building on what is now University Avenue and then when they moved to the new building which is now Farmhouse Restaurant. James and I always thought so much of the whole Gaines family - Lewis, Ila, Lewis Jr. and Carolyn. I remember going to the 50 year anniversary celebration for Lewis and Ila and spending a lot of time at Carolyns bookstore, etc. Also going to the Gaines house during a Parade of Homes one Christmas. So many wonderful memories. Huntsville will not be the same without Ila. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. {lease let me know if there is anything I can do for yall. Love you. Dorothea Tarver and family

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**Dorothea Tarver** - March 16, 2017 at 07:05 PM

JC

I have such fond memories of Ila and of course Lewis. They became such well thought of by so many. She will be missed and her dedication to her family and so many others was so easily seen. Janie and I know she is now in a better place with Lewis.

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**John Chandler** - March 16, 2017 at 09:47 PM

KR

Ila was one of the most caring, righteous, lovely, God-fearing person that I know. She was a mentor to me for many years. I know she will be truly missed but her legacy lives on. May God bless the GAines family.  
Love,  
Karen Henderson Rhynard

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**Karen Henderson Rhynard** - March 20, 2017 at 07:34 PM