



Dr. Lesta Burt Johnson

January 24, 1928 - September 26, 2011

Dr. LESTA BURT JOHNSON Dr. Lesta Burt Johnson died September 22, 2011. Lesta Jeanne Norris was born to Lester Norris and Gladys Pummel Norris on January 24, 1928 in Harmon, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Kenneth Bates; husband Wayne Burt; and son Norris Bates. She is survived by husband, Glennon Johnson; brother Dr. Larry Norris, Sr and wife, Frances; son, Dr. Kenneth Bates; daughter, Susan Burt Polnick and husband Stephen. Surviving grandchildren are Kevin Bates, Cassandra Bates, Jessica Bates and Jennifer Bates. Nancy Monter and Larry Norris, Jr. are Lesta's niece and nephew whose children are Julia and Matthew Monter and Courtney Norris. Surviving stepchildren are Steven Burt and wife Anne, Philip Burt and wife Kelly, Richard Burt and wife Marcelyn, Deborah Wood and husband Ray, and Judy Asa and husband James. Surviving step grandchildren are Michael Burt, Madison Burt, Mary Burt, Julie Yargo and husband John, James and Jordan Asa. Great-grandchildren are Cheyenne and Dakota Yargo. Lesta grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, received her high school diploma from Paschal High School, her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Woman's University and her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She taught school or was librarian in Garland, Arlington and Fort Worth Texas before coming to Sam Houston State University to teach in 1966. She was the Department Chair of the Library Science Department from 1966 until 1980 when she took a leave of absence to live in South Africa. She returned to SHSU in 1982 and taught as a

professor until she retired in 1991. While at SHSU, she instituted flexible schedules so teachers could keep their positions while continuing their education, was instrumental in starting the master's degree program, instituted off campus teaching, secured and administered two federally funded nation-wide master's degree institutes, and led a drive to establish an adolescent book award from The Texas Library Association. Dear to her heart are old friends from her childhood in Fort Worth and friends held close through the years in Garland and Huntsville and Elkins Lake, the First United Methodist Church Sunday School Class and church, her two book clubs, her two bridge groups, and the Quadelles. She is especially grateful for her caring and loving husband, Glenn; son Ken; daughter, Susan and her son-in-law, Stephen. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: The Lesta Burt Johnson Scholarship Fund, mail to: Darlene Andrews, SHSU, University Advancement, P. O. Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas 77341. (Make checks payable to SHSU and in memo write Lesta Burt Johnson Endowment) Funeral services will be held Monday, September 26, 2011, 10:00 a.m., at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Texas with burial to follow at Brooke Cemetery in Huntsville. Family will receive friends Sunday, September 25, 2011, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Lesta Burt Johnson*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy for Dr. Burt's family. It was a pleasure and honor to be one of Dr. Burt's students of library science. I was diagnosed with breast cancer on the last semester during my finals in 1990. It was due to Dr. Burt that I was able to finish my masters with her love, kindness, and understanding of my situation. Dr. Burt will always be remembered and dear to my heart.
Librarian @Gutierrez M. S. in Harlingen, Tx.*

Betty Mungia - September 27, 2011 at 12:58 PM



“ *Susan, I am so sorry for the loss of your Mother. May God guide you through this difficult time. There is no one like a Mother, she can never be replaced. Keep your memories fresh and remember how much love the two of you shared. God Bless you and the family.*

Kim

Kim Bonvillion Patton - September 26, 2011 at 05:59 PM

LS

“ Dr. Burt was such an inspiration to me when I was enrolled in the Library Sciences Program at SHSU while earning a Master's of Library Science. She was a joyous person, always kind and encouraging, filled with energy and a "can do" outlook on life. Dr. Burt challenged me personally and professionally. I am thankful to have known her and to have experienced her influence in my career as a librarian.

*With sympathy and prayers,
Linda K Smith*

Linda K Smith - September 24, 2011 at 02:58 PM

TD

“ It was such an honor to care for Mrs. Johnson and her precious family. She always had a smile and was so gracious and appreciative for anything done for her.
Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.
Sincerely, Tami J. Dees, RN THEE Hospice and staff

Tami Dees - September 23, 2011 at 09:44 PM

JM

“ Glenn and all the family, we are so sorry to hear of Lesta's death. We remember fondly her years of service at SHSU and our being "across the street" neighbors on Avenue R. Lesta had a major influence on hundreds of librarians and others in education. She will be remembered for those contributions.

Joyce & Jimmy Merchant - September 23, 2011 at 04:13 PM

CB

“ I am so sorry for your loss--and the loss to librarianship.

I graduated from Sam in 1974, and remember Dr. Burt fondly.

Clyde Ruth (Young) Beyer - September 23, 2011 at 02:43 PM

AA

“ I am saddened to see that Dr. Burt is no longer with us as she was a dear inspiration as a librarian and teacher. What a wonderful contribution she has made to the world.

God bless you all!

Anna Allebach - September 23, 2011 at 01:21 PM