



Lu Ellen Gibbs

May 7, 1917 - June 22, 2005

Lu Ellen Evans Gibbs Lu Ellen Evans Gibbs died suddenly on June 18, 2005. She was born May 7, 1917, to Rev. and Mrs. J.E. Evans. She was a graduate of Galveston Ball H.S. and Texas Christian University. In 1940, while working for Gulf States Utilities in Huntsville, she met and married Phil Gibbs, who left her a widow in 1975. She is survived by two children, Mary Laura and Donald (Scotty), both of Walker County. Mrs. Gibbs is also survived by a sister, Dorothy Bock of Maryland, and by five grandchildren, Noah, Ben, Seth, Tim, and Ruth. She was preceded in death by her youngest sister, Ruth Evans. There was hardly a civic or charitable group in Huntsville untouched by her generosity. She served on the boards of Region VI, the Huntsville Memorial Hospital Board, the Methodist Retirement Center, Planned Parenthood, and the Texas Prison Museum. She was a charter member of the Study Club and Elkins Lake Women's Golf Association. She was on the board of the J. Philip Gibbs Centre for the Performing Arts in which she had a keen and defining interest. She succeeded her husband as Chairman of the Board of First National Bank, and believed that any business meeting over one hour was too long. As a young woman, Lu Ellen took and developed many striking photographs, most notably of her mother's native West Texas. (Not long ago, she attended the opening of an exhibit of Wight family history at the Porter House Museum in Odessa.) She met Phil through their involvement with Huntsville's original Community Theater, and she continued to support the arts in Huntsville both privately and through the Old Town Theater and the Arts

Commission. She earned the Master's Degree in English at Sam Houston State Teachers College, supported many scholarships there, and was elected a distinguished Alumna. She founded and supported the President's Distinguished Lecturer series on the campus and took enthusiastic pleasure in the University's golf and softball programs. A keen athlete herself, she considered the Lu Ellen Gibbs Open Golf Tournament among her very highest honors. She and her husband played tennis, and she bowled, swam, and played badminton; but golf was her joy. On television, she watched the Astros win one on the last evening of her life, and she had plans to attend a game at Minute Maid Park this week. Until the last weeks of her life, she personally delivered newspapers to every patient at Huntsville Memorial Hospital every Sunday morning before attending the early service at First Christian Church. A devoted member of that Church all her life, she gave her full support to their every activity and project. Her health declined in recent months, and for the past ten weeks she enjoyed temporary residence at Carriage Inn, where the friendliness of staff and residents did much to brighten her life while her home was undergoing renovation. A memorial service will be held at First Christian Church on Wednesday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. Under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Donations in Lu Ellen's memory may be made to the Friends of the Old Town Theater or to First Christian Church or to a charity of your choice. Lu Ellen felt fortunate when she was able to help. She was a strong thread in the fabric of the community, grateful to God for her good neighbors, friends and family. Her viewpoint and her presence will be much missed.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lu Ellen Gibbs*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I sincerely hope I am not too late in sending my condolences to the immediate family. LuEllen was my second cousin. Now in my seventies, I've undertaken the project of putting together the family genealogy, and was sad to come across LuEllen's obituary. I remember very well my visits to Huntsville as a boy through my teen years to visit my dad's Uncle Ed and Aunt Dotsy. I can picture visiting the Gibbs home nestled in the tall pine trees - quite different from what we had in either Galveston or San Antonio. LuEllen always made such a favorable impression on me. The world was a better place for having her put her "touch" on it.*

Carl Dale Evans - March 29, 2013 at 09:48 AM



“ *Mrs. LuEllen always made my day whenever I saw her. She was such a fun lady that was always so full of life. She was an inspiration to all by giving so freely to her community. She will be missed by so many.*

Kelly Keeland Peck - August 29, 2005 at 10:01 AM

TB

“ One thing that I noticed in the tribute to this amazing woman that seemed to be missing was her dedication to the Joe G. Dais School of Vocational Nursing. Mrs. Gibbs was a staunch supporter of the school and very active board member. Her dedication to the school made it what it is today. I say that every former and future graduate of the school is a living tribute to this astounding woman and her dedication to this community. Mrs. Gibbs will be remembered for many things in her life... too numerous to mention when you talk to individuals in and around our small community, but her vivaciousness that just seemed to exude from her in her daily life will always be remembered. Your mother was and always will be an amazing humanitarian and for her efforts Huntsville has truly benefitted. Thank you so much for sharing her with us. We will all miss her dearly.

Terri Bohanon

Terri Bohanon - July 13, 2005 at 07:10 PM

DP

“ I wanted to express my respect and condolences to Mrs. Gibbs' family. I was always impressed by her unassuming kindness. Among the fond memories I have of her, I especially was impressed by her kindness, commitment, and consistency. On the weekends for the past 15 years while I made rounds on patients at the hospital, I was impressed with her consistent presence distributing papers to people in need. For me, she embodies the spirit of the message Matthew records in the New Testament: "... Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40. May we seek out those in need and provide that quiet, unassuming and consistent kindness that she displayed to those around her. David A. Prier

David A. Prier - June 22, 2005 at 12:09 AM

PH

“ *To the Gibbs Family:
The SHSU Department of Theatre and Dance would like to extend our condolences to you. Mrs. Gibbs was always such an enthusiastic patron of our programs and our productions. I always looked forward to talking with her before or after a show so I could hear what she thought of the production and hear any suggestions she might have for productions of the future. She was a delightful person and a true patron of the arts.*

My deepest sympathy.

Sincerely,

Penny Hasekoester and the Department of Theatre & Dance

Penny Hasekoester - June 21, 2005 at 04:37 PM

NB

“ *Such a dear person, funny, giving, tireless and gracious. We are sorry to see her leave us and grateful for the knowing.
Nancy and Scott*

Nancy and Scott Bounds - June 21, 2005 at 04:37 PM

ME

“ *Although I am still fairly new to Huntsville, I have heard so many wonderful things about Mrs. Gibbs and the Gibbs family that I wanted to send my sincere condolences. As the HHS Golf Coach, I admire and thank her for her love and support of the game here, and for all of the young people she has helped. May her wonderful works reward her as she has rewarded others, and may your entire family continue to be blessed. Finally, I was very touched when I learned she shared the Evans name! God Bless... Marcus Evans.*

Marcus Evans - June 21, 2005 at 01:37 PM

RS

“ Dear Mary Laura & Donald & family,

We here at the shelter and the Humane Society wish to express our condolences in the lost of your mother. Your family has always been good to the shelter in the time of need. This wonderful woman will be greatly missed by you and the Huntsville.

Barbara Collins, Board President

Rita B. Huff Humane Society & Shelter

Rita B. Huff Humane Society - June 21, 2005 at 12:36 PM

CK

“ *I have so many memories of your mother. Each one is good. Remember all the holidays at Dottie Momma's house? Remember going to the Houston Buff games? Remember the trips to the Ramada Club? Remember Mesa, Arizona? Remember hearing stories about the time she and my mother went to New York City? Lu Ellen meant so much to my entire family. Thank you for sharing part of your life with me.*

Cynthia & Paul Kimmel - June 21, 2005 at 12:35 AM

JR

“ *To the Gibbs Family,*

As a former longtime employee of Region 6, Education Service Center, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy in the passing of Mrs. Gibbs.

My prayers are with you at this time.

Juanita Richardson - June 20, 2005 at 05:46 PM

SP

“ To the family and friends of LuEllen Gibbs:

The staff and students at Mary McAshan Gibbs Elementary School send our condolences and prayers to family members and friends during this time of loss. It is such an honor to work for Huntsville Independent School District and to serve the students and parents at Gibbs Elementary. Thank you and your family for supporting this community and supporting education.

Gibbs Elementary Family

Steve Pierce - June 20, 2005 at 10:57 AM

JS

“ *Mary Laura & Donald,*
We are saddened to hear of the loss of your mom. She was a wonderful lady and faithful friend. The community of Huntsville has suffered a great loss in her passing. All will miss her quiet manner and winning smile.

We are in Colorado and will be unable to attend services. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. May God give you His peace.

Joe and Winnie Sandel

Joe & Winnie Sandel - June 20, 2005 at 09:19 AM

MR

“ *Scotty and Mary Laura-We were so sorry to hear about LUEllen, one of our favorite cousins. We are all going to keep an eye on funeral arrangements and will definitely try to be there. If there is anything we can do, please let us know. Mike, Herndon and Sandy*

Mike, Herndon, and Sandy Robinson - June 20, 2005 at 08:55 AM

JS

“ On the loss of LuEllen Evans Gibbs, I am reminded of the words of a hymn her father liked:

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

With heartfelt sympathy to you go my boyhood memories of LuEllen as a challenging Sunday School teacher. ---John Warren Smith

John Warren Smith - June 19, 2005 at 06:27 PM

GM

“ It is with admiration and love that we remember our relationship with Lu Ellen. She has been such a good friend to us and a great patron of the Old Town Theatre. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the Gibbs family at this time. Gene and Felicia

Gene & Felicia Myrick - June 19, 2005 at 04:01 PM

NJ

“ How sad I was to read of Miss LuEllen's death. Never have I met a more positive person than this dear lady! Thank you, Miss LuEllen, for the many good deeds you and yours have done for Huntsville, Walker County, and Sam Houston State University. I will treasure always your friendship while I was SHSU's Alumni Director (1977-1992)and now. You will be missed! Play that good golf game, lady! Thank you for being with us all for such a short time. Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones, Lovelady, TX

Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones - June 19, 2005 at 01:33 PM

JH

“ *What a great lady and major loss for our town. I remember newspapers on hospital stays (self and family). I remember a generous, gracious lady who conducted herself with grace, charm and dignity.*

My condolences and prayers to the family.

Jody Henry

Jody Henry - June 19, 2005 at 08:20 AM