



Martha Joan Holt

August 6, 1921 - November 30, 2010

Joan Barrington Holt A life filled with grace, wisdom, and humility ended in Huntsville on Thanksgiving Day. As she would have insisted, Joan Barrington Holt, 89, died without burden or despair on anyone's part, leaving this life peacefully after an apparent heart attack. Hubbard, Texas, where she was born on August 6, 1921, was a vibrant center of small-town farm life. Growing up during the Depression with her parents, Fletcher and Mattie Barrington, and sister Juanita, Joan never recalled any hardship or material deprivation as extended families and home-grown produce furnished health, nourishment, and good times in abundance. From the Gordons she gained a strong Biblical orientation, from the numerous Scotch-Irish Barrington clan she learned to confect a tall tale, and from the Hances she learned to sing and dance. She had a lovely soprano voice and the same beautiful skin as her mother and aunt. Joan became an honors student, developing a lovely, clear writing style that served her well throughout her long life. Her own mother's two rules – attend school every day and (Baptist) church every Sunday – formed the foundation of her own solid system of beliefs and later, her own approach to child-rearing. From 1938 to 1940, Joan attended Lee College in Baytown, where she served as president of one of the school's social clubs. Trips to Houston for dances at the lavish Empire Room of the old Rice Hotel were a special delight. Following one year enrolled at Baylor University, Joan joined the wartime work force. At the Baytown Ordnance Works, she met Lieutenant Beverley Holt, whom she married in January, 1942. They enjoyed each other's

company and support for the next 65 years. Army duties and, after the war, work assignments from Amoco led the Holts to numerous temporary and semi-permanent residential forays far from the Texas homeland. Driving through a bitter snowstorm along rural Missouri back roads en route to a military post in Iowa, the newlyweds understood for the first time why automobiles sold in northern states came with heaters and defrosters. Many more adventures lay ahead. Joan learned that people living in places such as New York, California, Illinois, Oklahoma and Virginia were different, but in ways that she did not think were as important as their similarities. She always enjoyed seeing new things and places and wrote only recently, "I hope I never stop learning from the world around me." European travel, especially to Scotland and Ireland to pursue family lineages, became a passion for Joan, particularly during the time after her husband's retirement in 1984.

Genealogical research became an amateur career, involving numerous cross-country trips by auto. She was especially proud of her Cherokee ancestors. Joan began teaching Sunday School in Baptist churches in 1951 and continued for the rest of the century, one of many ways in which her insights, warmth and good humor inspired others. Her piano was always set with the sheet music of hymns. She was preceded in death by her husband Beverley Baker (B.B.) Holt, and son-in-law Ashley Elkins, in 2007. She leaves three loving and devoted children, Jack Holt and wife Lenora, of Spring, Suzanne (Suzy) Steed and husband George, of Huntsville, and Jim Holt and wife Susan, of Washington, DC., six grandchildren, Matthew Holt, Adam Steed and fiancé Heather Houston, Elizabeth Harrison and husband John, Emily Elkins, Charlie Holt, and Jimmy Holt, and four great grandchildren, Jeremiah Harrison, Travis Harrison, Madison Elkins, and Owen Steed. They will all miss her optimism, love and enduring youth. A visitation will be held Monday, November 29, at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville from 5:00 until 8:00 pm. A graveside service for the family will be held at 11:00 am at the Weimar Masonic Cemetery in Weimar, Texas on Tuesday, November 30, where she will rest alongside her husband. Those wishing to leave

memorial condolences may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha Joan Holt*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss, Suzanne. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Tanya Cook - December 01, 2010 at 12:12 PM



“ *kimberly and i are with you jim and your family as you celebrate your mother's life, in reading her nice eulogy on this site, i wished i had spent more time at your house growing up skip*

skip - November 29, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ *Although I seldom was able to see Mrs. Holt after Jack and I left school, she always remembered me and had a warm smile and kind words. She was such a sweet lady, and I will miss seeing her. Stephanie, Jennifer, Lauren, Becca, and Pat also send their prayers and best wishes to your family.*

Mike Rasbury - November 29, 2010 at 02:38 PM

AP

“ My thoughts & prayers go out to you Emily & your family. She will be missed, but you always have the memories. If you need anything, let us know. We love ya! God bless you & your family during this time & always. You have another wonderful angel in haven to watch over you.

Angela Perry - November 29, 2010 at 11:11 AM

PB

“ Joan is already greatly missed in our little church at Carriage Inn. Just ten days ago I was visiting with her in her apartment listening to family stories and her life adventures. Today, she is having another adventure with the Lord she loves so much. Our prayers are with the family as each of you are confronted by her passing. She is greatly loved. Your friends at First Church Carriage Inn.

Pastor Ken Bugh - November 29, 2010 at 09:30 AM

PW

“ Joan was a very special woman and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Peggy Wehe - November 29, 2010 at 09:07 AM

DG

“ What an interesting and full life your loved one lived! I read her obituary and realize that there are more connections in our families than I knew.
I am so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in your time of grief that she lived well and went peacefully to join B.B. in heaven.

Dianne Gemas - November 28, 2010 at 06:45 PM



“ *Suzanne and Emily and families: you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you.* ”

Carolyn Goodwin - November 28, 2010 at 03:10 PM