



## Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg

August 16, 1926 - January 18, 2019

Mary Mabel Thomason Clegg, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died peacefully in her sleep on Friday, January 18, 2019 at her ancestral family home in Huntsville, Texas. Mary Mabel was born August 16, 1926 in Huntsville, Texas, to Delha Marguerite Eastham and James Hendon Thomason. She grew up in Huntsville, but spent part of her childhood in Orange, Texas where her father was employed by the Lutcher-Moore Lumber Company during the Depression.

A graduate of Huntsville High School, she attended Sam Houston State Teachers College, as well as The University of Texas at Austin, where she graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and Nutrition. She then spent a summer at the Juilliard School in New York City, studying piano and maintained a lifelong love of music.

She married Jacob "Jake" Pope Barnes Clegg, Jr., a WWII veteran, of Trinity, Texas on May 29, 1948, at her family home in Huntsville. In 1956, Mary Mabel and Jake moved to Houston with their young family of four daughters. She loved being his copilot in life and in the skies, whenever he flew the plane for their family vacations, due to having earned his private pilot's license years before.

Already a busy homemaker, Mary Mabel became a licensed real estate agent and then broker for over 50 years, established her own successful real estate company and became affectionately known to her family, friends and clients as "Mary T". She served as president of the Women of the Church at St. Philip

Presbyterian Church, then became a member at First Presbyterian Church of Houston and was a charter member of Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church. While living in Huntsville she attended First United Methodist Church and enjoyed her JOY Sunday School class. Mary Mabel also served as Girl Scout Leader, president of her Alpha Phi Alumni Association, Regent of the John McKnitt Alexander Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas, president of the Late Bloomers Garden Club, and longtime member of the Briar Club and the Houston Club.

Ever the industrious, determined and creative businesswoman, genially referred to by her family and friends as "The Energizer Bunny," Mary took on yet another new role from 1986 to 2016, as innkeeper with the utmost in Southern hospitality, when she established her ancestral family home in Huntsville as a Bed and Breakfast which she had elegantly and lovingly restored. She christened it "The Whistler," in loving memory of her maternal grandfather, Braxton Alston Eastham. One of her earliest memories of him was his talented gift of whistling tuneful melodies.

Built in 1859, the home was recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1989 and is a Texas Century Ranch which certifies that it has been maintained in continuous operation for more than 100 years by the same family.

Mary Mabel never met a stranger. She loved to welcome people into her historical family home turned B&B, and, as a natural born storyteller, delighted her guests by bringing the home's rich history and her interesting family heritage to life. She was a walking, talking connection to our American past, part of The Greatest Generation.

She is preceded in death by her one and only dear husband of 38 years, Jake, with whom she shared a sense of adventure and a love of travel; her two brothers, Braxton Hendon Thomason, Rawle Buckner Thomason, and her sister, Julia Marguerite Thomason Glass. She is survived by her four daughters: Elizabeth "Liz" Clegg Woodard and husband Donald "Woody",

Mary Virginia Clegg Kokot, Catherine Clegg Massey and husband Sam, Julia Clegg Sansevere and husband Richard. Mary Mabel rejoiced over each addition to her family, beginning with her 7 grandchildren: Mary Woodard Smith and husband Jonathan, Catherine Woodard Fox and husband Brian, Dr. Julia Woodard Tripple and husband Bob, Georgia Kokot, Jake Kokot, Katharine Kokot, and Michael Kokot; 9 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

In Mary Mabel's later years, she continued to travel with family and friends, always looking forward to new experiences. Her love of life never waned. She had a vivacious personality with a beautiful, infectious smile that lit up any room she entered, had an incredibly happy and positive disposition and energy, and was strong in spirit, courage, intelligence and wit. She was always impeccably dressed, known for her love of all things pink and sparkly. She was truly an inspiration to all and always left quite an impression on those who met her.

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to her constant companion and caregiver of three years, Erica Rivas, as well as her other devoted caregivers, Veronica Sanchez and Alejandra Martinez for their kindness and compassion.

Mary Clegg will lie in state 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Dr., Huntsville, TX 77340.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at First United Methodist Church, 1016 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville, TX 77320.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial donations be made to the Missions Ministry at Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church (CEPC). Please make checks payable to CEPC with "Missions/Mary Clegg" in the memo line and mail to CEPC, 8300 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024.

Tributes may be shared at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)



# Previous Events

## Lie in State

JAN 30. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr.  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
(936) 291-7300  
belinda@shmfh.com

## Service

JAN 31. 3:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
1016 Sam Houston Ave  
Huntsville, TX 77320-3999  
(936) 295-5441

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I met Ms. Clegg in the fall of 1991 when I was attending SHSU. Ms. Clegg was like family from the moment we met. I have memories of taking photos at the Whistler, learning how to cook a dutch baby pancake for breakfast, making the perfect bed and then building my own house using the ideas of what I loved about her house. Later, Ms. Clegg would come to the hospital and hold my twin girls when they were born and then have them over like they were her own. She even taught them some things on her piano. Ms. Clegg was the most intriguing woman I have ever met. I loved listening to her tell of all the things she knew and experienced. She will be dearly missed but she has left a life long impression on me and my family and friends.*

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**Stacey Smith** - January 31, 2019 at 03:16 PM



“ *Beautiful lady and such a beautiful family home, hoping it stands for years to come!*  
*Belle Hansen*

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**Belle Hansen** - January 30, 2019 at 11:18 AM

ZW

“ *Mary Mabel was a beautiful person. She will always be remembered for her generosity and kindness to others. When our father died, after his funeral in Huntsville, she opened up her home, The Whistler, for us to see, and our family history came alive. What a beautiful experience and great comfort it was for us.*

*May Light Perpetual shine upon Mary Mabel's soul and keep her alive in our hearts.*

*Very sincerely,*

*Carolyn Saçchi  
Jim & Zaidee Winton*

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**Zaidee Winton** - January 29, 2019 at 04:01 PM

JS

*Thank you so much for sharing this sweet memory. It means so much. . It is so kind of you to let us know how our mother impacted your life in such a positive way. She was truly a gracious and beautiful person. She had an inner light and amazing positive energy and was very kind and caring. Of course I'm biased. I worshiped the ground she walked on. Julia Clegg Sansevere, daughter #4*

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**Julia Sansevere** - March 03, 2019 at 07:53 PM

DE

“ *I just loved her. She was a gracious warm woman, with a lot of style. We got married in her beautiful b&b and spent the night there almost 11 years ago. I am so sorry for your loss. She will never be forgotten! Love, Dee Everett*

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**Dee Everett** - January 28, 2019 at 08:00 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg.*



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January 27, 2019 at 06:17 PM



“ *We spent our honeymoon night in the beautiful Whistler, June 1999.. Mary Mabel was such a gracious hostess. We will always have a very fond memory of her, she and Bob talked music for hours.*

*Susan and Bob Fulton*

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**Susan Fulton** - January 27, 2019 at 02:50 PM



*Thank you so much. She did love music. How wonderful that you were able to meet my mother, get to know her and stay in her beautiful ancestral home that she grew up in and loved so much. Julia Sansevere*

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**julia Sansevere** - January 29, 2019 at 07:27 AM

MG

“*Mary Mabel was such a beloved friend of our mom, Mary Buford, from their childhood. It was fun listening as Mom shared her happy memories growing up with Mary Mabel and all their cousins. Getting to know her as we helped our mom visit was such a treat, and I am grateful for the times we shared with Mary Mabel. She is missed, but has left me with some wonderful memories.*

*Our hearts go out to you during this sad time, Betsy & Bob Graham, Bob & Gayle Buford, Kathy & Tom Owen and Kevin & Cheryl Buford (Mary Mot's (Buford) children)*



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**Mary Graham** - January 24, 2019 at 03:53 PM

JS

*Thank you for sharing these wonderful memories and photos. Our mothers are now continuing their fun in Heaven. Lord knows they had a ball together down here on earth for so many wonderful years as cousins and friends. I'm so grateful you hosted the 90th Birthday party for your mom and included my mom and Priscilla Brown. That was epic. ❤️*

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**Julia Sansevere** - March 03, 2019 at 07:59 PM

MG

“ Mary Graham purchased the Cherished Memorials for the family of Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg.



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**Mary Graham** - January 24, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg.



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January 24, 2019 at 01:22 AM

TR

“ Tricia and Rock purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg.



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**Tricia and Rock** - January 23, 2019 at 11:40 AM

SC

“ Shana Cross lit a candle in memory of Mary Mabel (Thomason) Clegg



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**Shana Cross** - January 22, 2019 at 05:27 PM