



Merle Jeanette Munson Coker

May 1, 1923 - July 12, 2014

Merle Jeanette Munson Coker

Merle Munson Coker was born on May 1, 1923, and stepped into her Savior's arms on July 12, 2014. Merle was born to Lee and Fannie Munson in Waskom, TX where her father worked for Arthur Temple. The family moved between Diboll, Pineland, and Hemphill as Temple expanded the lumber enterprise, finally moving to Huntsville when Merle was 14. The first person she met upon moving to Huntsville was Bill Coker, her future husband and the love of her life, who was also the cousin of her best friend from Pineland.

Merle graduated from Huntsville High School and attended Sam Houston State Teacher's College, serving as a Bearkat Cheerleader, until WWII intruded. Merle and Bill were married during a 72 hour leave from the U.S. Army Air Corps., and celebrated 69 years of a loving marriage until his death in 2012.

After the war ended Merle and Bill moved to Houston while he attended the University of Texas Dental School. This was a particularly wonderful time in their young lives because they made deep and life-long friendships with many other dental students and their families. Upon graduation Merle and Bill returned to Huntsville where Bill opened his dental practice, and Merle was a full time wife and mother. She made a beautiful home and it was full of love

and laughter to friends and family.

Merle loved to travel and the family was able to take many wonderful trips around the United States, Mexico, Canada and Europe. She also joined Bill on a medical missionary trip to Haiti. She joined the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville in 1949, and she and Bill were faithful and active members.

Merle was an accomplished seamstress and loved to sew and create beautiful items for their home and for the Church Bazaar. She loved to fish, and she and her family spent many happy days at their cabin on Club Lake. She was an avid Bridge player, and played weekly with the same club of friends for over 50 years. Merle loved to spend time with her sisters and attend Mother/Daughter Retreats with the females in the family. Merle was a genuinely happy person with a well-developed sense of humor—it was impossible to be around her and not be laughing. She made friends wherever she went, and sincerely enjoyed people. She was a true Southern Lady to the end.

Merle is survived by their children Karen Hewitt (Richard), Jeff Coker (Carol), Dottie Ellis (Rick) of Huntsville, Debbie Gorden (Todd) of Temple; grandchildren Melissa Mares, Billy Stockton, Lee Coker, Sarah Hilliard (Bobby) and Stephen Sudlow; great grand-children Matthew Ramsbacher, Jennifer Ramsbacher, Elizabeth Coker, and Jackson Hilliard; sisters LaVelle Brown of Tyler, and Golda Rich (John) of Huntsville, and a large extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother Arthur Lee Munson, her husband Bill Coker, and son Jack Coker. The family deeply appreciates the Special Angels who provided care for our mother: Kim Casteen, Ronetta Price, Embracing Hospice, and Cornerstone Nursing.

The family will receive visitors on from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17,

2014, at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday July 18, 2014, First United Methodist Church with interment following at Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church and Alzheimer's Association @www.alz.org.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Merle Jeanette Munson Coker*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM