



Merle Jeanette Munson Coker

May 1, 1923 - July 18, 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



“ *God bless her! I am so glad to have known her& Dr. Comer may they both rest in peace!*

Debbie Wingo - July 30, 2014 at 09:01 PM



“ *Jeff, Debbie and Dottie, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. She was just such a lovely person with a beautiful smile. She was always so friendly, happy and full of life. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Melissa Murray - July 22, 2014 at 05:49 PM



“ *Karen, I rejoice with you in your celebration of your mom's graduation to be with Our Lord. The days to come will be filled with many memories Know that many people will lift you to The Lird as you walk through this journey. Catherine*

Catherine Sanders - July 22, 2014 at 01:49 PM



“ *Jeff, Debbie and Dottie. I was so sad to hear of the passing of your mom. She was such a great lady. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Nancy Hopper - July 19, 2014 at 10:27 AM

SF

“ Karen, I loved your mother for all my childhood and then for all the years to come. She was my mothers best friend and such a joy to have in our life. The many wonderful times we all had together will always be remembered. I slept better last night knowing she and Dot were together with your dad and J.C.!! Many Hugs to you and your family. Sandra

Sandra Fitzgerald - July 17, 2014 at 09:57 AM

MF

“ Debbie and Dottie,

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your Mother. She was a beautiful person. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Monetta Mooney Frenza - July 16, 2014 at 03:03 PM

BW

“ May God's comforting, loving arms surround each of you at this time to help you through your loss.

My prayers are for peace and fond memories to fill your hearts to lighten your grief.

Barbara Davis Wakeham - July 16, 2014 at 01:36 PM

JH

“ So sorry for your loss. My grandfather is in Creekside and I would talk with Merle while visiting. She always talked about Bill and I truly enjoyed her showing all the pictures of them when they were young that were in her room. I wished that I could have met her sooner.

Jane Harrison - July 16, 2014 at 11:20 AM

FC

“ Karen, you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. I will always cherish my memories of your mom and dad and how much I adored them.

Frances Cowden - July 15, 2014 at 11:26 PM

JW

“ Karen & family: I am so sorry for your loss. Your mother was a sweet lady and had a great sense of humor. It was always fun to be around her. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Jo Ann (Larrison) Wright - July 15, 2014 at 04:23 PM

LN

“ Dear Dottie and Karen,
I'm so sorry for the loss of your Mom...I loved hearing all the stories about her and you all growing up! My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Miss you so much. Love, Linda

Linda Nichols - July 14, 2014 at 05:49 PM

JJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. May God bless each of you.

Janie Spencer Joyce - July 14, 2014 at 03:54 PM

GB

“ Dear family, we were very sad to hear of your loss of your Mother and sister! She was a lovely lady and a joy in your lives! Always smiling. We send our prayers and love to you all. The most helpful thing we found from our loss was the wonderful memories and were thankful we had them in our lives for as long as we did!

Grace and Harry Bohan - July 14, 2014 at 09:31 AM

DT

“ Golda, I just wanted to let you know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. Merle was so special to me Her smile and personality could light up any room. Take care and may God give you comfort and strength at this time.

Dorothea Tarver - July 13, 2014 at 04:24 PM

DT

“ Debbie, Dottie, Karen and Jeff. Your family has been a special part of our lives for many years. I remember meeting the Coker family about 50 years ago when James and I moved to Huntsville. Your mom and dad were very special friends to us. I am still convinced your daddy played a very big part in me getting a teaching job in Huntsville. He was such a mentor when James first practiced dentistry in TDC. Your mother was always such a ray of sunshine. Of course, all of you have been very special friends to us. Now, Billy and Merle are together again with no pain. We will miss them so much. If I can do anything to help you during this time of sorrow, please let me know. May God wrap his loving arms around your whole family. We love all of you.

Dorothea Tarver - July 13, 2014 at 04:17 PM

AS

“ Debbie, Dottie & Karen,

I am so sorry for your loss. I remember your mother as a most gracious lady.

May God grant you peace in this most difficult time for your family.

Andrea Martinez Scott

Andrea Martinez Scott - July 12, 2014 at 08:37 PM

BN

“ Karen and all the Coker family. Your Mother was a very sweet person. Everytime I saw her she had a smile and was so proud of her children. Prayers for you and the family.

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - July 12, 2014 at 06:03 PM

JJ

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Jeannine Jacoby - July 12, 2014 at 04:29 PM

MC

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Mrs. Coker.
I think back on all the fun years and how we still carry them with us.

Mark Chalker - July 12, 2014 at 01:48 PM