



Shirley Ann O'Bannon

October 13, 1937 - March 20, 2018

Shirley Ann O'Bannon, 80, of Huntsville, TX passed away peacefully March 20, 2018 surrounded by her family in Tyler, TX. Shirley was born Shirley Anne Earhart in Huntsville, TX on October 13, 1937 to parents Thomas Orbie Earhart and Ida Mae Hayes. Shirley had a zest for life that translated to her life's dream of being a mother, grandmother, and eventually a great-grandmother. She instilled in her family the importance of loving each other unconditionally, a desire to be a child of the Lord, a love of art and infinite appreciation of nature and all of it's beauty. She was a woman who put family above all else and was fiercely protective of all of those she loved.

Shirley's dream of motherhood came true when she had William Dale Caldwell and James David Caldwell. She then married Bobby Joe O'Bannon and had Robert Stephen O'Bannon, Barbara Susan O'Bannon, and Thomas Grady O'Bannon. Shirley and Bobby raised their children on several ranches in the Huntsville area. With this upbringing, Shirley helped her children to realize the importance and ability to appreciate nature and have a respect for all life. No flower was too small to be enjoyed or no animal was too far gone to be saved. In her love of nature even something as small as a rock had a special story it could tell and could have once been a fossil or an old arrow head. Nature walks were a daily occurrence for her and her children. The most common plants like lichens and Spanish moss held significance and were the gateways to new worlds. Old bottles others saw as trash became

precious treasures that were passed down. Wildflowers were stored and pressed in old storybooks, the smallest lizard was named and given a home, and every piece of flint found by her grandchildren held a special place in her collection jar. Through her children she helped pass this love onto her grandchildren. She taught what plants were edible and which ones were best to make fairy clothes out of. She showed her love of art through the many stories and poems she wrote and the characters she illustrated. You could always find small elves and fairies drawn on scraps of paper where she had shown her grandchildren how to draw the perfect mushroom.

She was a peaceful and loving person, but she was also fierce. She passed on her strength and ability to think for yourself, but at the same time respect the opinion of others. Members of her family have differing opinions on everything from politics to science but come together in their love and respect for each other and her. These traits were illustrative of her personality and beliefs as a whole. She had a way of keeping everyone together and everyone loved her for it.

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband Bobby O'Bannon, father Thomas Orbie Earhart, her mother Ida Mae Sprayberry, step-father Johnny Franklin Sprayberry, brothers Arnold Noel Earhart, James Otto Earhart, John Mark Sprayberry, sister Debra Mae Sprayberry, and son James David Caldwell.

She is survived by her sisters Gwen Sprayberry Carlson and Ruth Johnson Wellerman, her four children William Dale (Billy) Caldwell and wife Belinda of Huntsville, TX, Robert Stephen (Steve) O'Bannon and wife Norma of Huntsville, TX, Barbara Susan (Susie) Sharp and husband Don of Palestine, TX, and Thomas Grady O'Bannon and wife Sunshine of Portland, OR. Her surviving grandchildren include Nicole Warren, Cindy Caldwell, Tracy Farlow, Amanda Scott, Brandi O'Bannon, Katy Burgess, Bobby Sharp, Stephanie O'Bannon, Cody O'Bannon, and Fiona O'Bannon. Her surviving

great-grandchildren include Ivanna Colunga, Nadia Colunga, Landon Hardcastle, Jonathan Smith, William Clark, Hallie Scott, and Hayes Scott. Shirley is survived by 18 nieces and nephews and many other extended family members and friends.

The celebration of Shirley's life and legacy will be held at 10:00 AM Saturday March 24th at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, TX.

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

MAR **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Shirley Ann O'Bannon*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - March 30, 2018 at 04:34 PM



“ *Shirley Ann O'Bannon*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Thanks to all of our family and friends who have called, texted, messaged and prayed for our family. Mama is at peace.*

Susie Sharp - March 24, 2018 at 07:09 PM



“ *From your Palestine TDC Family and Judy and Mark purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Shirley Ann O'Bannon.*



From your Palestine TDC Family and Judy and Mark - March 23, 2018 at 09:59 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann O'Bannon.*



March 23, 2018 at 08:48 AM



“ *Edd & Terry Artherholt sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Ann O'Bannon*



Edd & Terry Artherholt - March 22, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann O'Bannon.*



March 22, 2018 at 10:24 AM