



Sylvia Louise Gintz Bell

August 2, 1941 - August 2, 2016

Sylvia Gintz Bell

A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature. ~ Emerson

Sylvia Louise Gintz was born August 2, 1941, in Nacogdoches, Texas to Walter F. Gintz and Virginia Thompson Gintz. She died August 2, 2016 in Conroe, Texas.

Walter Gintz accepted a teaching position at Sam Houston Teachers College in Huntsville and moved there the summer before Sylvia entered third grade. She began elementary school in the red brick building on 8th Street. Completing her public school education, she graduated with the class of 1959 from Huntsville High School. After enrolling at Sam Houston, choosing Business as her major, she also earned a teaching certification for job security. She was a Zeta, and graduated with a degree in Business in 1963. Even before she graduated, Sylvia had a job teaching English at South Houston High School in Pasadena, Texas ISD.

In 1964, Sylvia followed a new principal, Carter Lomax, to join the original faculty for the new high school, Sam Rayburn, in Pasadena where she taught Business, English, and was a yearbook sponsor.

In 1965, she married Michael Bell at the First Methodist Church in Huntsville.

She eventually left teaching and moved with her husband and her son, Tony, to the 1960 area. There she became an adequate golfer and greatly improved her bridge skills.

In 1977, she moved back to Pasadena and became a retail gift shop owner of Canterbury's, where she had two years of moderate success selling a lot of gold and silver James Avery jewelry that made a nice change for a while; however, a great teacher never strays too far from the classroom. She took an English position at Pasadena High School and later moved back to Sam Rayburn High.

In 1978, she became a member of the Olmstead family and remained so until her death. She had met Anita Olmstead in Old Main in 1960, during a class recess and then met her three young sons, Bob, Tim, and Mark; that sealed the friendship forever. In 1962, she met Anita again in their last class before graduation and both started their teaching careers at the same high school in the fall of 1963.

In 1993, Sylvia returned to Huntsville and taught there and at Conroe. After retiring from teaching, she started using her talents in other areas: a member and later president of the Friends of the Huntsville Library; was an early member of Master Gardeners; and an active supporter in saving the old Huntsville High School building on Sam Houston Avenue; member of the Study Club; founder of The Book Club in 1996; honorary member of the Baytown Babes, and she worked day and night to create the most unusual landscape at her home in Elkins Lake.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Virginia Gintz and her son, Tony Bell. Also, her much loved pets, Tootsie Bell and Cleme Bell.

She is survived by her family: Anita G. Olmstead, Huntsville, Texas; Tim A. Olmstead, Houston, Texas; Mark and Sara Olmstead and Mike Rogers, Katy,

Texas; Brian Rogers and family, Tampa, Florida; Bob, Harriet, Robert, and Taylor Olmstead, Lynn Haven, Florida; her brother Walter F. Gintz III; her sister, Betsy, Keith, Travis, Autrey, and Ginger Gates, Pembroke, New Hampshire.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville with Dr. Dolores Everard officiating.

Sylvia wished to recognize and honor these special people in her life: Dr. Tom C. Cole; Dr. Richard Harper; Lt. Col. Robert C. Olmstead; Tim A. Olmstead; Mark W. Olmstead, and the late Robert W. Olmstead; Clara Jones Beckham; Emma Etheredge, and the Baytown Babes.

“Memories are simply moments that refuse to be ordinary.”

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Oakwood Cemetery
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Sylvia Louise Gintz Bell*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Sylvia was my friend and a Zeta Tau Alpha sister at Sam Houston State. I was saddened to read of her passing in the Sam Houston alum magazine. I have some great memories of Sylvia and our time together at Sam.*

Terry Taylor Orr Gregory

Terry Taylor Orr Gregory - August 21, 2017 at 05:16 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences for your loss. We are from out of town and visited the beautiful cemetery where Ms. Bell was buried and found a lovely brooch today. If anyone at the service is missing one, please contact me at kgboucher@windstream.net*



kristen boucher - August 06, 2016 at 02:22 PM



“ *Ms. Bell was my senior year English teacher as well as the sponsor of our yearbook at Sam Rayburn High, in Pasadena. She was an incredible teacher and a wonderful person. I was able to get to know her a bit outside of school. It was an honor to know her and I know that she will be dearly missed.*

bobbie payton - August 05, 2016 at 09:06 PM

TA

“ *Tana purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Sylvia Louise Gintz Bell.*



Tana - August 05, 2016 at 11:03 AM

GT

“ *Sylvia held a very special place in my Mother's heart. I remember times of sitting around the kitchen table visiting and laughing...sometimes there would also be tears. Sylvia wrote the most beautiful tribute to Mom when she passed away...it is one of my treasures.*

My prayers are with the family and many friends that will miss Sylvia each day. The world has lost a great talent and wonderful friend to so many. Ginny Etheredge Thompson

Ginny Etheredge Thompson - August 04, 2016 at 04:09 PM

BM

“ *Brian and Family and Michael purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Sylvia Louise Gintz Bell.*



Brian and Family and Michael - August 04, 2016 at 11:55 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Sylvia Louise Gintz Bell.*



August 03, 2016 at 08:17 PM