



Willie Jo Boaz

March 18, 1919 - July 28, 2018

Willie Jo Morris Boaz passed away peacefully on the 28th of July, 2018 at the age of 99. She leaves a world changed by her long and full life, serving the Lord, her family and countless others. She truly had a wonderful life.

Willie Jo was born March 18, 1919, at home in the McAdams Community, in western Walker County, to John Thomas Morris and Annie Grace Barron Morris. Willie Jo was the granddaughter of the late William James Morris and Margaret Antonio Moore Morris and the late Reece Owens Barron and Mary Charlotte Jones Barron.

In 1920, when Willie Jo was ten months old, the Morris family moved from the McAdams Community to the Goree Prison Farm. Willie Jo's father, John, had accepted a job as supervisor of the garment factory at Goree. In 1930, the Morris family moved to town and bought a home located on 21st Street, a site that is now part of the Sam Houston State University campus.

Willie Jo attended Huntsville public schools and graduated from Huntsville High School in 1936. After graduating from high school, Willie Jo enrolled at Sam Houston State Teachers College (SHSTC) in Huntsville. Willie Jo excelled in her college course work and studied to become a teacher. Willie Jo graduated from SHSTC in 1938, earning a B.S. degree in Education. Willie Jo also earned a M.A. degree from SHSTC in 1948. After her undergraduate

college graduation, Willie Jo began teaching elementary school. Willie Jo's 20-year teaching career took her to lola, Kittrell, Hubbard, Richmond and finally back to Huntsville, where she taught third grade.

Willie Jo met her future husband, Joe Albert Boaz on a blind date to the Texas Prison Rodeo in 1946. Joe and Willie Jo were married on Christmas Day, December 25, 1947, at the Morris family home in Huntsville.

For more than 60 years, Willie Jo was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Huntsville. This was the church she attended with her parents growing up and the church she attended in later years with her own family. Willie Jo especially enjoyed working in the church library. On Sunday mornings, you could find her in the library, sorting and stacking books and helping children pick out just the right book to check out and take home. Willie Jo worked in the church library for almost 40 years.

Willie Jo had a wonderfully positive outlook that brought joy and encouragement to all who knew her. She most enjoyed being with her family and a small group of friends she grew up with in Huntsville. These were friendships she cherished and friendships that lasted a lifetime. She also enjoyed quietly observing the interaction of her friends and family. She was the consummate and gracious hostess who made everyone feel welcome and included. Willie Jo was a supportive wife and mother who attended countless sporting events, band concerts, piano recitals and school plays. She was also the "go-to" mother if one of her friends or family needed a place for their children to stay for a weekend, a week or a month. Willie Jo was soft spoken, kind and incredibly patient with her family and everyone she met. Willie Jo was also a master of the unspoken word. She understood the power of words – both good and bad – and she always chose her words carefully. She was a gift from God and her family adored her.

Willie Jo was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Joe Albert Boaz (1917-2002); her son, Jon Albert Boaz (1962-2011); her parents John Thomas Morris (1882-1966) and Annie Grace Barron Morris (1892-1994); her sister Fay Morris Stewart (1912-2014); and her brother-in-law, Charles Vannoy Stewart (1913-1986). Willie Jo is survived by her son, Joseph Charles Boaz and wife Eileen of Huntsville; daughter, Jan Boaz Ables and husband Clint of Huntsville; grandson, Joseph Carlton Boaz and wife Deborah of Huntsville; granddaughter, Emily Grace Boaz Stavinoha and husband Hudson of Dallas; great grandchildren, Anabelle Fay Boaz, Joseph Albert Boaz and Marion Reese Boaz, all of Huntsville; and two surviving first cousins, Eloise Robinson Powell of Huntsville and Bill Barron and wife Joyce of Sugar Land.

The memorial service celebrating Willie Jo's life will be conducted at eleven o'clock in the morning on the 1st of August, 2018, in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Huntsville with Reverend Jason Bay officiating. All are invited to greet the family at a visitation at the church beginning at ten o'clock.

Prior to the memorial service, the family will have gathered for a private service of interment at Adickes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville.

The family would also like to express their appreciation for the wonderful care Willie Jo received at Unlimited Care Cottages, formerly Virginia's Lake Home in Willis over the past six and a half years.

In lieu of customary remembrances, and for those desiring, the family requests with gratitude that memorials be directed to the Huntsville High School Ex-Students Association, P. O. Box 1717, Huntsville, TX 77342-1717 or the charity of one's choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Huntsville
1229 Ave J
Huntsville, TX

Funeral Service

AUG 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Huntsville
1229 Ave J
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Willie Jo Boaz*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Jan, Joe & Families:*

Just a quick note to for ever share in your loss of my dear cousin, Willie Jo. When Uncle Jim & his family made his annual trip to visit Aunt Grace & family, when I was a child; I went with them 2 summers in a row. it was so much fun to be part of Aunt Grace's hospitality; and of course I met Willie Jo those summers. I thought she was beautiful; not just physically, but in so many other ways--a true servant of Our Lord, Jesus Christ! She will always be a part of my life, as long as I live. I pray God will give you his blessed comfort so that your memories of her will be forever blessed.

Love, Joyce & Bill Barron

Mr. & Mrs. William L Barron - August 11, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ *To Jan and Joe, I am so sorry for your loss, special memories of younger days gone by, your mother was so sweet.*

Melissa Murray - August 07, 2018 at 09:32 PM

TV

“ Joe & Eilene, Carlton & Deborah,

Our thought and prayers are with you during this sad time. We sincerely apologize for the late acknowledgement. We just found out on Wednesday night at church. Sometimes our lives get too busy and we fail to see what is going on around us.

Your mom/grandmom was a lovely lady and will be missed by many.

Thank God He has provided a path for us to be reunited one day.

Please know we will be praying for you all.

Denise & Terry Vogler

Terry & Denise Vogler - August 03, 2018 at 03:39 PM



“ I first met Mrs Boaz through my Dad putting in a vacuum system in their house about the mid 1960's (I was about 6-7 years old!). I loved visiting with Mrs Boaz while Mr Boaz (with his cigar!) & my Dad did the work! She made such a lasting impression on me & showed me then that there really are angels on this earth!! With her sweet low toned voice, she made you feel as though you were the most important person ANYWHERE...and "aww, I know you CAN do that!" was often heard in the classroom! And beautiful she was always so nicely dressed with her hair & makeup always immaculate! I was blessed with her as my teacher & our families would later cross paths regularly through insurance, banking, baseball games, grandkids...everything composing a small town! Mrs Boaz was the matriarch of one of Huntsville's most loved families. It was not uncommon to see the Boaz family always helping to contribute what was needed to help out a local cause! I will miss this dear lady so very much! This has been a bad week for me with losses & it seems I tear up everytime I think about her being gone, but she is only gone in body to those that knew her...she is holding hands now with her beloved Mr Boaz & Jon!! God Bless You!! ❤️ ❤️



Jamie Sue Brinegar - August 01, 2018 at 10:43 AM

BW

Mrs. Boaz was a friend of my mother-in-law, Mada G Williamson. Stuart and I visited with her and she served us lemon bars. Most people buy the mix in the store, but she made hers from scratch! We shall not see her like again!

Beth Williamson - August 01, 2018 at 12:22 PM

EP

“ Mrs. Boaz was one of my Favorite teachers - so sweet! I loved her!
Earline Hensarling Pritchard

Earline Pritchard - July 31, 2018 at 12:43 PM

JJ

“ Jan, I am so very sorry for the loss of your mother. While we never outgrow the need for our mother, I know that the beautiful memories you have of yours will help sustain you through this difficult time. My prayers are with the entire family.

Jeannine Jacoby - July 31, 2018 at 09:22 AM

ME

“ Linda and I are so very sorry for the loss of Miss Willie Jo. She was my third grade teacher. She led a beautiful life and contributed immeasurably to the lives and education of so many of her students. She had, and still has, a beautiful family to carry on her long-lasting legacy of excellence and outstanding personal example. Thank you, Miss Willie Jo!

Mickey S. Evans - July 31, 2018 at 07:13 AM

MH

“ I am so sorry to hear about your mom. She was a wonderful lady. Remember the good times and they will carry you thru the bad times. My thoughts and prayers are with you

Mary Beth Kaltwasser Van Horn

Mary Beth Kaltwasser Van Horn - July 30, 2018 at 10:26 PM

DH

“ I am now 78 years old, and my memories of this beautiful, intelligent, caring lady are centered on my third grade experience in her classroom. RIP, Mrs Boaz; Heaven gained a jewel. Dorothy Cauthen Hammock

Dorothy C Hammock - July 30, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Willie Jo Boaz.*



July 30, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ *My prayers are with you and your family. God Bless You. Donna Robinson Paschall*



Donna Paschall - July 30, 2018 at 09:19 AM



“ *Words cannot express how much Willie Jo and her family have meant to me through the years. Heaven has truly gained a special angel. Blessings from Vicki Davis Christopher*



Vicki Davis Christopher - July 29, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss.*



Mellicent Sikes Wiley - July 29, 2018 at 05:03 PM