



Gladys "Coach Chancellor" Lorene Lester

July 29, 1937 - April 1, 2015

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." John 11: 25-26

Gladys Lorene Lester, age 77, of Odessa, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, April 1, 2015.

She was born in Butler, Texas on July 29, 1937 to the late Minnie and Newel Branton. She was a loving daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher, coach, and friend.

As a young girl, Gladys loved singing on weekend radio shows and at community events. She always enjoyed a good game of bingo and watching old game show re-runs. Gladys met Robert Lester in 1980 and quickly fell in love. Robert and Gladys were married on November 26, 1982.

Gladys "Coach Chancellor" graduated from Sul Ross State University in 1968. She began her teaching and coaching career in Wink, in 1968. In 1972, she moved her children to Crane where she led the Crane Golden Cranes to three state tournament appearances and two state championship volleyball titles. One of the many stars on that team was her own daughter, Linda Isbell, who received All State honors and represented Crane in the THSCA All Star game.

In 1975, she moved to Odessa where she became Permian High School's first volleyball coach and led the team to the school's first volleyball district championship and playoff appearance. She also was Permian High School's first girls track coach.

Gladys continued to pursue her passion and love of teaching young adults for 31 years and was a recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Teacher of the Year. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas.

Gladys is preceded in death by her father, Nevel Branton; mother, Minnie Branton; her brothers, Hardy and TJ Branton; her sisters, Sarah Elizabeth Branton and Nadine Smith; her daughter, Linda Charlene Isbell.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Lester, of Odessa; her son, Larry Isbell and wife, Lucy of Tyler and their children: Alison Johnson and husband, Patrick, Adam Isbell, Amy Hodges and husband, Taylor and Caryn Hales; her son, David Isbell, and wife, Pam of Ralston, Nebraska and their children: Joe Isbell and wife, Amber, Amanda Dragon and husband, Jason; her son, Huey Chancellor and wife, Dana of Edna, Texas and their children: Kristin Miller and husband, Tom, Casey Pesek and husband, Trevor and Kelli Chancellor; her son, Carl Chancellor and wife, Kim of Odessa and their children: Shelby Ellis and husband, Jordan, Trenton Chancellor and wife, Lillian. She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday, April 3, 2015 from 6 to 8:00 pm. Funeral services are scheduled for 10:00 am, Saturday, April 4, 2015 at Acres West Funeral Chapel with Pastor Curtis Brewer officiating. Interment is scheduled for 10:00 am, Monday, April 6, 2015 at McDade Cemetery in McDade, Texas.

Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa, Texas.

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am.” John 14:1-3

Cemetery Details

McDade Cemetery

1876 East U.S. Highway 290
McDade, TX 78650