



Gladys Lightsey Loehr

September 8, 1919 - March 31, 2020

Gladys Lightsey Loehr, well-known in Burleson County as a loved teacher, friend mother, grandmother, and great grandmother went to be with her Lord Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Gladys experienced many changes in her century of life, but she managed and usually thrived in all of them. She was born September 8, 1919 five miles south of College Station to parents George and Nellie Lightsey. In her early years, she rode to school on a horse. When her country school closed, she moved in with her uncle and aunt to continue her education. Finally, buses were available near her home, and she returned to graduate from Stephen F. Austin High School in Bryan in 1936. That summer, she commuted to Texas A&M University, and in the fall had to go to Sam Houston because women were not allowed to attend A&M except in the summer. Her father died before she completed her degree, and she borrowed enough money from her uncle to get her teaching certificate that summer. She began teaching in a two-room rural school and ultimately completed her degree from Sam Houston University. Her determination to pursue her education despite so many obstacles likely contributed to her becoming an amazing teacher.

Gladys married Rudy Loehr, a farmer and rancher, November 14, 1943. At that time, she was working at Texas A&M University. In 1950, she devoted herself to being a fulltime mother and wife. She returned to teaching in 1957,

teaching at Caldwell High School and continued until her retirement. She taught countless UIL winners in typing and shorthand many of whom reached state level competition. She lost her beloved Rudy when she was 48.

A devout Christian, Gladys worked at Cooks Point United Methodist Church in virtually every capacity---United Methodist Women, Sunday School teacher, board of trustees, vacation bible school, and representative for United Methodist Conference. She also regularly mailed the Upper Room devotional to her children and grandchildren. In her “retirement”, she helped found the Caldwell Christian Care store. This enterprise has earned hundreds of thousands of dollars for people in need. It became her new job, and she served on their board of directors and as treasurer until well into her 90s when she fell and broke her right/ check writing wrist.

She was always a devoted mother and grandmother and could run the bases with her grandkids at baseball well in her 70s. She taught them to light a firecracker in their hands and throw it fast (much to their parents' disapproval), but to her it was important to think fast in danger. Her courage, energy, spunk and love will be missed in our world. Her ability to adapt to change was a hallmark for her longevity

She is survived by her daughter, Dianne Johnson and husband, David and son, Rudy Loehr and wife, Karen and brother, George W. Lightsey. Her grandchildren are Elizabeth Bell and husband, Will and great grandson, Ethan; Preston Loehr and wife, Sarah and great grandchildren, Lightsey and Peyton; Drew Johnson and wife, Sarah; Colton Loehr and wife, Kelsey; Valerie Floren and husband, Josh and great grandchildren Jackson, Brooks, and Charlotte; and Bryson Vick and soon to be wife, Sarah Northcutt. She especially loved her nephews and nieces who did so many things to enrich her life. They always included her in their lives, and she was so appreciative.

Our family is grateful for loving caregivers over the years, and especially Doris Broaddus and Bessie Sims who took on longer shifts during the weeks of quarantining. Special thanks to Dr. Ian Reinemeyer for his patient medical guidance and Copperas Hollow Assisted Living staff.

Due to these challenging times with coronavirus, internment will be private. We ask that you join with us in your own ways to think about and celebrate Gladys's wonderful, long life and the blessings of knowing her.

Remembrances in her honor can be made to Cooks Point United Methodist Church or Caldwell Christian Care.

Cemetery Details

Cooks Point Methodist

4902 Texas 21
Caldwell, TX 77836

Tribute Wall

MW

“ My thoughts and prayers are for the family of Gladys Lightsey. I know she will be dearly missed, as she was a wonderful lady. Mrs. Loehr was my typing teacher in 1959. The most wonderful, kind and loving teacher that I ever had. It was because of Mrs. Loehr teaching me such good typing skills that I had a real good job in Bryan. When I found out that Mrs. Loehr was in assisted living I began to visit she and Doris as often as possible. Then Doris mentioned that Ms. Loehr liked Chocolate candy and I would always make sure to bring some to her..Tears are streaming down my face as I type this, for I loved Mrs. Loehr dearly. She was the best!!
MaryAnn Moehlman Ward
Bryan, Texas

MaryAnnMoehlman Ward - April 05, 2020 at 05:04 PM

GV

“ So sorry for your loss. She was a great teacher and I have thought about her often. She inspired so many. She will be greatly missed.

Gloria Vavra - April 05, 2020 at 03:51 PM

BA

“ My Condolences to The Loehr Family for your Great loss. Mrs Loehr was taught my how to type. She was very Patient and Had a Very Kind Spirit. I graduated in 1974 from Caldwell High School. After my graduation and down through the many years afterwards, whenever our paths crossed I made sure to speak to her reminding her that she was my typing teacher and thanking her for the positive impact she made in my life. She would always have a big pleasant Smile that made my day and warmed my heart. She was and still is Loved and Appreciated by many. I Pray God's Peace, Strength and Blessings upon this Family in this Season.

Birdie Ayers-Tyler - April 05, 2020 at 08:41 AM

MS

“ Gladys was a mentor and friend to Bro. Lawrence and me while we served Cooks Point UMC from 1992 to 1999. She was such an encourager and always had a positive outlook on life. She was a Godly woman who helped so many people during her life. Her many students loved and respected her. Our friendship has meant the world to me and I will miss her and will cherish our many shared memories.

Mary Margaret Smith

Mary Margaret Smith - April 04, 2020 at 11:22 PM

NH

“ I will remember Mrs. Loehr all my days. She was a very special Lady.

Nancy Trimm Higgins - April 04, 2020 at 03:04 PM

EP

“ Mrs. Loehr was a great and kind teacher. She positively impacted me and so many others - What an incredible life she led! Sympathy and prayers for her family. Elaine Surovik Perez

elaine perez - April 04, 2020 at 01:46 PM

ES

“ Our class, Caldwell Class of '63, had the joy and privilege of her presence at several of our class reunions. She always said we were the best class she ever taught, and we all felt her strength and praise, while knowing she said that to every class she taught. How many thousands of lives did she shine on? Clearly, all of us. We loved her for how she gently carved a bunch of rotten kids into good, productive adults. And I believe she will keep her light shining on all she loved.

Evonne Alford Sturm

Evonne Alford Sturm - April 04, 2020 at 11:27 AM

BT

“ As with many others, I also remember taking typing under Mrs. Loehr. But I will always remember that come Christmas when cards would start arriving, the first card we usually received was from Mrs. Loehr.

Buddy Terry - April 04, 2020 at 11:01 AM

 Donna
Hucke

“ Mrs. Loehr was truly an amazing teacher. And you are right, she will truly be missed. But her race is won and she can now be with the Lord and her husband.

Donna Hucke - April 04, 2020 at 10:25 AM

LB

“ Rudy and all the Loehr family we send our condolences and love, Ms Gladys was the sweetest lady, May Gods Peace & love surround all of you during this difficult time, Jerry & Lillian Beasley

lillian beasley - April 04, 2020 at 08:39 AM

MF

“ Gary and I want to send our deepest sympathy to the family. Mrs. Loehr was truly a caring and excellent teacher that inspired many students at CHS. She will be missed by our entire community . May she rest in peace .

Marcella Franzetti - April 03, 2020 at 10:48 PM

CR

“ Mrs Loehr was such a great typing teacher. I remember her patience and I remember going to UIL and getting 2nd place under her guidance. God has truly gained another angel.

Christine Mathews- Rios - April 03, 2020 at 09:20 PM

MD

“ Mr Loehr was a very good teacher and person. she always cared about everyone.. prayers for her family..

Margaret Pevehouse Dudley - April 03, 2020 at 09:08 PM

DS

“ Mrs. Loehr was such a blessing. My typing teacher and National Honor Society sponsor.
What great memories. God Bless.

Debbie Stefka Smith - April 03, 2020 at 08:57 PM

BJ

She was my Typing Teacher. Sweetest teacher I had.

Barbara Johnson - April 04, 2020 at 04:40 PM

DE

“ Mrs. Loehr was the most caring teacher I ever had. As many are writing: we would not have our keyboard skills without her patience with us. Though I did not carry shorthand with me very far. Thank you Mrs. Loehr.
You all are in my prayers for peace of heart.
Debby Valigura Swick

Debby - April 03, 2020 at 08:29 PM

JK

“ Dear Dianne and Family, Steve and I are sending our heartfelt condolences. Your mother was loved and admired by the hundreds she so positively impacted. I know you will miss her. Jan and Steve Kyles

Jan Kyles - April 03, 2020 at 08:15 PM

MC

Mrs Loehr was the most instrumental teacher to me. She told me if I learned to type I would never go hungry. She was right. I went to UIL competition and won the silver medal. She was a beautiful soul .
Another Angel made it home❤️

Mary Vasquez Cormier - April 04, 2020 at 06:23 AM

ML

“ I always remember Gladys as encouraging and loving, I enjoyed it when she would come to visit Gram and I could sit in on their conversations. There was no doubt that she loved Jesus and that her faith was front and center in her life. I look forward to seeing her in glory someday.

Mike Lightsey - April 03, 2020 at 08:08 PM

BC

“ *She was a great teacher. It was a joy to be in her class. Prayers for family and friends.*



Barbara Clay - April 03, 2020 at 07:05 PM

LE

“ *Dear Dianne, Rudy, and your greater family. Your mother was such an inspiration to me. I remember so much her teaching me how to type and how she worked during her lunch hour with me to train for the UIL typing contest.*

Lee Easter - April 03, 2020 at 06:01 PM

JP

Totally agree Lee!! I won District UIL Typing —due to her inspiration, positivity, & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE for ALL her students! Definitely one of my FAVORITE Teachers & great memories! ❤️

James Polasek - April 03, 2020 at 08:23 PM

JR

“ *My memories are many, but the most important one was that Mrs. Loehr let High School Principal, Cecil Brown, talk her into letting me, Joe Rychlik, take Typing I when I was a sophomore. That was very unusual in 1961. I loved the class and couldn't wait for Typing II the next year. Having this skill helped me get an easier position when I was in the Army. And, in later years, using the computer, writing letters that people could read. So, Mrs. Loehr as I am typing this memory, you are right here with me. Donna and I are so glad to have known you and continue to know your family.*
Joe Rychlik

Joe J Rychlik - April 03, 2020 at 05:29 PM

CU

"Miss Gladys" was a special lady in my life for as long as I can remember. She worked at Cooks Point Methodist Church in Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, and later was my typing and shorthand teacher. The best description for her is lovely Christian lady. Everyone who knew her was blessed for their relationship with her. God bless her family.

Carole (Duewall) Urbanosky - April 03, 2020 at 06:36 PM

BT

There will be many remembrances of a wonderful friend and teacher who made a difference in many of our lives. She doubled as a counselor in our small school. As classes changed she read the faces and reached out if someone seemed to be having a bad day. If one of us admitted to a problem or a worry, we knew that she would respond as a friend. Her approach was to help us think about how we could solve our problem. It wasn't sympathy that was offered but training in problem solving. We were all so lucky that she became a teacher and that she took those problem solving skills to the Christian Store. It was indeed a life well lived.

Beverly Terry

Beverly Terry - April 03, 2020 at 08:18 PM

MB

Mrs. Lower was absolutely the best. She taught me typing and shorthand. These skills helped me land my first job, and I will forever be grateful to her for her wonderful teaching. My condolences to the family. Rest In Peace Mrs. Lorne.

Margaret Beaty - April 03, 2020 at 09:02 PM

AP

She was the absolute sweetest and precious woman. She always sat up at the front at Cookes Point United Christian Church and always had a hug, big smile, and I know my parents were delighted to be able to welcome her with open arms after Jesus did! She will be sorely missed in this community. Praying for all of you.

april pinales - April 04, 2020 at 10:30 PM

BH

Rudy & Dianne we grew up knowing so many remarkable ordinary people that were loving & taught us by example to live life well by honoring God & taking care of our neighbors. Your mom was one of those special people that was always a shining example. She, Aunt Corkie, my mom Mable, & my Aunt Leona were great VBS buddies. I have great memories of coming to spend a week in Caldwell to attend Cooks Point UMC Bible School every summer. May God bless you & comfort you during this time. Much love to you all. Becky Speck Harvey

❤️🙏🌹

Becky Speck Harvey - April 05, 2020 at 02:12 AM

JF

Dianne, Rudy and families, I had many wonderful teachers through the years, but Mrs. Loehr was my absolute favorite! She taught me Typing II and Shorthand. I still remember Day 1 of Shorthand Class. She stood at the blackboard and wrote a strange symbol and said, "ish," wrote another and said, "chay," wrote a third and said "gay." I didn't know what those squiggles meant, but I was hooked. My greatest disappointment Senior year was that I let her down when I didn't win the regional shorthand competition. The dictation was super easy after all the hours she had worked with me during lunch and after school. The problem was that they included a book title that had SEVEN WORDS in it, and in my nervousness I forgot to underline it, duh hence, 7 errors. It absolutely broke my heart that I let that wonderful lady down. My best friend and I were in her Typing II class when she got the word that her husband had passed away. She was a 100% class act, as always. She didn't have to tell us anything, yet she did. She was the epitome of strength and grace. Her love for the Lord shone through all of her actions. She was such a gift to students (probably thousands over the years) at Caldwell High School, and to her community, and I can only imagine what a wonderful mother, grandmother, and great grandmother she was. I'm so sad for your loss, but thankful you had her and her amazing example for as long as you did. May God bless you and hold you close and give you His peace. With deepest sympathy, Joyce Surovik Fleetwood

Joyce Surovik Fleetwood - April 14, 2020 at 07:56 PM