



Josephine Murphree Hirt

June 26, 1919 - November 21, 2009

Josephine Murphree Hirt passed away peacefully in her home November 21, 2009 in Houston, Texas at the age of 90 after a brief illness, with her family at her side. Josephine was born in Rockdale, Texas on June 26, 1919, the youngest daughter of Henley Goff Murphree and Florence Hewitt Murphree. She was a gentle, loving and loyal wife. Her whole life was devoted to family and friends. She loved her God and her church family. Through her faith in God and strong will she survived several bouts of cancer. She graduated from Rockdale High School in 1936, was FFA Sweetheart, Dutchess in the Homecoming Court and was on the Tiger Tail Staff school newspaper and the Ads and Humor Editor of the Lair Annual Staff. After she graduated from high school, she attended TWU and returned to Rockdale to work at the Rockdale State Bank. She married M/Sgt Robert L. Hirt also of Rockdale on March 28, 1943 in Victoria, Texas. Together they traveled extensively throughout Europe and the U.S.A., eventually returning to Houston with their family to make their home. Jo worked for Houston I.S.D. and Rice University where she retired in 1982. She was an active member of CWF at First Christian Church in Houston and was a member of Ransford Chapter 135, Order of the Eastern Star. She was preceded in death by her parents, Florence Hewitt and Henley Goff Murphree. Sister, Mary Frances Ellis and her husband J.L. Ellis, Jr. She is survived by her devoted husband of 66 years, Robert Lee Hirt. Together they shared two daughters and their families, Jane Hirt McKinley and husband Clark of Bellville, Texas and Susan Hirt Dyes of Houston. Four grandchildren,

Jennifer Hirt McKinley, Aaron Bennet Brown and wife Patricia, Amy Elizabeth Dyes and Robert Scott Hirt Dyes. Great grandson, Kendal Bennet Brown. First Cousin Newman Perry Stribling and wife Donna and devoted companion and little friend "Fifi". A graveside ceremony will be held 11:00 AM Wednesday, November 25, 2009 in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Rockdale with Reverend Michael Dunn officiating. Pallbearers, Clark McKinley, Aaron Brown, Robert Dyes, Johnny Hirt, Gordon Samuelson, Tom Hatcher. Honorary pallbearers, Grayson Moss, Bud Rainey, Ski Silvensky, Tom Shearer, Bennet Brown. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd., Houston, Texas or to the American Cancer Society. The family would like for you to celebrate her life at a memorial service on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 11:00 AM at First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd., Houston, Texas. Rev. Michael Dunn and Rev. David Hargrave officiating. Communion will be served.