



Lela Pearl "Jinks" Vavra

July 20, 1920 - February 19, 2016

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Jinks was born on July 20, 1920 to Frank and Pearl Stamps. She was born in the house that she was able to live in until a few years ago. She has spent the last few year in St. Joseph's Manor in Caldwell.

Jinks passed away on February 19, 2016 to join her beloved husband Joe who has been waiting or her in the heavenly hereafter since September 29, 2003.

Joe made sure before leaving this earth that someone would be taking care of Jinks. Now he is again doing that job. They were married for over 57 years.

As a young child Jinks had a passion for reading. She acquired this form her father, as he would read to her nightly before bedtime. He said if he had to read to her she would hear the great works of different people. And when she didn't understand a word he would have her look them up so she would remember them the next time. Her desire to read would find her out on the back porch reading by the moonlight. Even when she lost her sight she enjoyed the books furnished by the Talking Books for the Blind. The program kept her doing what she enjoyed so much.

As a young lady in school she was a fierce tennis player. She would play with broken fingers, broken nose and a broken foot. Nothing could stop her from the game she so loved. She had a bulldog type to attitude that no matter what she was going to do her best at all times. The only time she didn't play was during a State Tournament when mumps sidelined her. She wanted to go but her mother said no. And of course they lost without their number one player on the court.

Still as a young lady she started working side by side with her father, Postmaster Stamps, at the Dime Box Post Office. There she learned every detail of postal work. From keeping ledgers to the penny sorting mail, and then helping the carriers deliver the mail. When the weather was so bad they didn't think they could drive she would get behind the wheel and slide up to mail boxes in deep mud and the carriers would put the mail in the boxes. She said in all the times she did that she never knocked down a mailbox. Jinks worked with her dad because his health was failing and he needed her to help with most of the work. It was a great experience for her as she stayed with the same job for 57 years. She was later given a formal reception in Houston for her loyalty to her job and the people of her community.

Jinks and Joe were not blessed with children of their own but they helped many kids accomplished their goals. Jinks and Mrs. Massey were den mother for the boy Scouts and held meetings every Monday. Not one boy ever missed a meeting. The boys were so excited to have a sleep over in the Rodeo Grounds and they challenged Jinks and Joe to a race, thinking they could outdo them. Joe beat them and then they challenged Jinks. While running she stepped in a cow pie and the boys got so tickled that they couldn't complete the race. Needless to say it was a great time for all that happened to see this event. She and Mrs. Massey took the boys to State Finals and they won second place for the craft work and the ability to make correct change on each purchase without the help of an adult.

Jinks and Joe were members of the Dime Box Baptist Church where they make beautiful music that was a pleasure to God's ears. Jinks played the piano and Joe lead the singing. What a wonderful team they made.

Jinks and Joe traveled the 48 states and lived their lives doing things they enjoyed. Hiking, sightseeing and of course fishing. They loved the coast for deep sea fishing. On one of their trips they found two abandoned dogs and brought them back to Dime Box. These dogs became great Texans. No animal was ever turned away from their home and each and every one was taken care of with the greatest of love.

Jinks leaves the following to mourn her departure into God's arms.

Her adopted brother Tommy House and wife Betty, their children Tracy and wife Sherry and their children Amanda and Kristie, Timmy and his wife Frances and their children Lauren and Garrett.

Her special angel on earth Joyce Weaver, who took over her Uncle Joe's job of taking care of Jinks when he passed away. Without Joyce doing things for her, Jink's life would not have been the same. With Joyce's love and help she was able to stay in her childhood home until a few years ago. She is also survived by Joyce's two boys, Richard and Bill David.

Jinks is also survived by Joe's nephew Mike Ehrlich and his niece Pat Ehrlich Crum and Pat's son Andy.

Jinks is also survived by Joe's brother Jerry (deceased) and his wonderful wife Florice. Florice helped take care of Joe during his illness and then started to help take care of Jinks until Jerry's health declined.

Joyce and Betty would like to especially thank Betty Dobos, Jarrell Smith, Carolyn Jones, Miguel Vega, Opal Irvin, Joe Fisher, Linda Knox and Mitch Bearden for being there when we needed extra help. Without you we would have had a hard time doing the things we needed to do to take care of Jinks.

Also we would like to thank the staff and nurses that have taken care of Jinks at St Joseph's Manor. She was well taken care of we do thank you for that.

May she fly to the arms of Joe and find that she has no more pain and she and Joe can now make beautiful music for the Master Himself.

Graveside services will be held at noon Monday, February 22 at Caldwell Masonic Cemetery with Rev. Steve Johnson officiating.

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home of Caldwell is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Caldwell Masonic Cemetery

1411 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB **22**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Caldwell Masonic Cemetery
1411 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX

Tribute Wall

 Vicki
Mikulin
Prentice

“ *Sympathies to Mrs. Vavra's family. Mr. and Mrs. Vavra were such wonderful people to know growing up in Dime Box.*

Vicki Mikulin Prentice

Vicki Mikulin Prentice - February 21, 2016 at 10:49 AM

LK

Mrs. Vivra was such a sweet lady and I'm so blessed to have met her. Jinks is someone that I will never forget. Love You! RIP

Linda Knox - February 21, 2016 at 06:42 PM

DJ

Jinks and Joe were two wonderful special people. I attended church with them while I grew up. Their beautiful music is something I will never forget.

Diana Pharis Johnson - February 22, 2016 at 01:19 PM