



Martha Jean Wolf

August 14, 1937 - December 11, 2025

Funeral services for Martha Wolf, 88, of Caldwell, are set for 10:00 a.m. Friday, December 19, 2025, at St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Caldwell, with Father Melvin Dornak officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday, December 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., concluding with a rosary. Church viewing will be Friday at 9:00 a.m., prior to Mass.

Martha Jean Wolf was born on August 14, 1937, in Caldwell, Texas, to RosaLee Piwonka and Willie Vykukal, who owned and operated the Vykukal Cotton Gin, located where the current Caldwell Civic Center now stands. She was the oldest of three children, including two sisters. Martha passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Thursday evening, December 11, 2025.

Living in the country, Martha's first language was Czech until she entered first grade, when English became the spoken language. She often shared stories of her childhood, including walking to and from school, picking cotton on nearby farms, enjoying homemaking classes, and playing and working at the Vykukal cotton gin. Martha also played the clarinet in the band while attending Caldwell High School.

After graduating from high school, Martha moved to Austin to continue her education at Durham Business College. While living at the YWCA, her roommate invited her on a double date with her cousin, Frankie Wolf of

Friendship near Granger, and the rest is history. After a short courtship, they were married on January 19, 1957, at St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Caldwell. They were blessed with two daughters, Patricia and Pamela.

Martha worked as a secretary at National Life & Accident Insurance Company and later in the Dean of Students office at St. Edward's University. After retiring from St. Edward's, she served as church secretary at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Austin. Martha held many roles at St. Ignatius, but her favorite was singing in the choir.

Martha and Frankie raised two beautiful daughters, and while working full-time, Martha was the consummate "supermom." She cooked, carpooled, cleaned, and ironed everything. A talented seamstress, she lovingly sewed all of her daughters' clothes when they were young, making it a special milestone when each girl turned 12 and received her first store-bought dress.

After her husband, Frankie, retired from the City of Austin's Purchasing and Stores Department, the couple moved to Caldwell on October 30, 1988. Caldwell proved to be a wonderful place to retire, and they cherished both old and new friendships. Frankie and Martha worked side by side on many projects, including organizing St. Mary's Christmas Toy Drive, helping in the church kitchen, and participating in St. Rita's Quilters (St. Mary's Prayer Quilt Group).

A founding member of St. Mary's Women's Club, Martha also served briefly as a volunteer church secretary and helped organize the church gift shop.

Frankie and Martha were named St. Mary's Family of the Year in 2005 and 2006, and later received the Austin Diocese's Lumen Gentium Award in 2009.

Martha especially loved singing in the choir at St. Mary's. When her voice could no longer reach the necessary notes, she continued to sit near the choir,

cherishing the music and the fellowship she so deeply loved.

Martha loved cooking and sharing meals with others, especially with the priests of St. Mary's. There were always plastic containers ready to be filled with soups, salads, meals, and desserts, and she delighted in clipping new recipes to try. She was especially known for her famous bread pudding and whiskey sauce, which she faithfully prepared for Knights of Columbus dinners.

Martha cherished her Czech heritage and, along with Frankie, family, and friends, traveled to Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) numerous times. She was a member of the Burleson County Czech Heritage Society, and she and Frankie were honored as Queen and King of the Caldwell Kolache Festival in 2007.

In September 2002, Martha joined the Creative Memories Quilt Guild and fondly recalled working with Susan Lemon to establish the first Country Store, which sells handmade items at the guild's annual quilt show—an event that continues today. Her quilting friends often praised her fine craftsmanship, and Martha competed in several quilt shows during her years in Caldwell.

Martha continued sewing and creating quilt tops until her passing. She had just completed her final quilt, a gift for her great-grandson, Kaden. In 2024, at age 87, her final quilt entry at the Burleson County Fair was awarded Grand Champion, Large Quilts. She titled the quilt Tjemne Hvezdy (Mystery Stars). Martha passed her love of quilting to her daughters, who continue the tradition and, for many years, joined her on annual trips to the International Quilt Festival in Houston where they took classes, shopped the vendors, and viewed the quilts.

In recent years, Martha, along with Francie Baxter, helped establish St. Rita's Quilters at St. Mary's, a group dedicated to creating handmade prayer quilts for parishioners facing health challenges. Martha and Frankie were both

recipients of these quilts and cherished them deeply. She especially enjoyed recruiting new members and sharing her passion for quilting with others.

During their younger years, Martha and Frankie loved to travel, starting with a Starcraft tent trailer and exploring the Southwest with their daughters. After moving to Caldwell, they purchased an Airstream travel trailer and continued traveling across the United States. They also enjoyed several international trips with St. Joseph's Golden Medallion Club and Collette Tours, visiting Central Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, and taking numerous family cruises to the Caribbean and Hawaii. Each summer, Martha looked forward to an annual trip to Port Aransas with her daughters and their families, where she delighted in playing games, listening to the seaside waves, and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Following her husband Frankie's death in August 2024, Martha enjoyed the care of two loving caregivers, Rachel Flores and Marie Shivers, and cherished time with her granddaughter, Kellie Gerling, who moved in just days after Frankie passed. Kellie encouraged Martha to stay active with outings to Mass, summer downtown concerts, trips to the farm, and grocery trips. Martha especially looked forward to Monday evening games of 6-handed 84 dominos with cousins and friends, enjoying the friendly competition of women versus men.

On November 22, 2025, Martha celebrated a long-awaited family event when Kellie married Preston Zwernemann—a union that Frankie served as the matchmaker. She enjoyed seeing family and friends, watching the dancing, and soaking in every moment. Tragically, just nine days later, Martha fell ill and eventually joined Frankie in heaven.

Martha was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. She was preceded in death by her parents, RosaLee and Willie (Bill) Vykukal; her husband, Frankie Wolf; and her sister, Evelyn

Verwold and great grandson, Sutton Ray Gerling.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia (Wolf) Gerling and husband David of College Station, and Pamela (Wolf) Unnasch and husband Bobby of Magnolia; grandchildren, Bradley Gerling and wife Kathryn and their sons Kaden and Bennett of Charlotte, North Carolina, Kellie Gerling Zwernemann and husband Preston of College Station/Caldwell, and Kyle Unnasch and wife Leslie and their daughters Dakota and Briar of Seabrook; her sister, Linda DeLuca and husband Ernie of Conroe; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: St. Rita's Quilters; St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church; or local breast cancer nonprofit, Pink Alliance [www.pinkalliance.org].

Previous Events

Public Visitation

DEC 18. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home
404 Buck St.
Caldwell, TX 77836

Family Present for Visitation

DEC 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home
404 Buck St.
Caldwell, TX 77836

Rosary

DEC 18. 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home
404 Buck St.
Caldwell, TX 77836

Funeral Mass

DEC 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
500 W Old San Antonio Rd
Caldwell, TX 77836-1162
(979) 567-3667

Burial

DEC 19. 11:15 AM.

St. Mary Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Martha Jean Wolf*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - December 19, 2025 at 01:47 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - December 18, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ *186 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - December 17, 2025 at 05:29 PM

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“ Steve and Kathy Lindsay purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martha Jean Wolf.



Steve and Kathy Lindsay - December 17, 2025 at 03:32 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Martha Jean Wolf.



December 17, 2025 at 12:19 PM



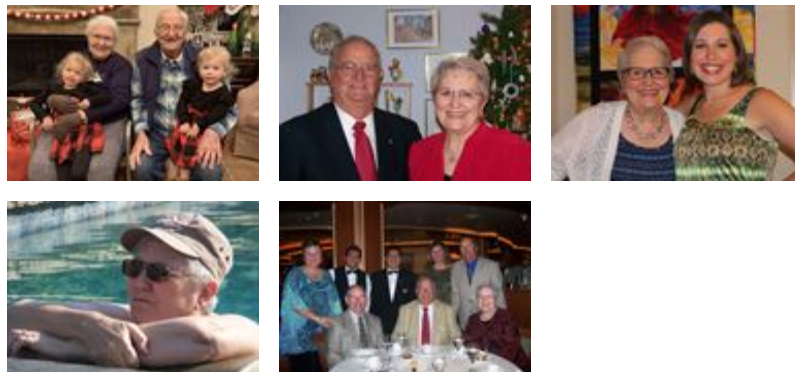
“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - December 17, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ 41 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - December 16, 2025 at 05:51 PM

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“ *I loved reading this beautiful obituary about a lady who was beautiful in every sense of the word. Thinking of Martha and Frankie always makes me feel happy, peaceful, and so grateful to have known them. I will always treasure memories of Patricia bringing them and her sister to our home in Kansas for an overnight visit as they all were returning from a quilting convention in Nebraska. Richard and I both treasured that visit, and I still do. My sympathy to all the family for their loss of Martha, and my congratuations to Martha in her new home on a life well lived!*

Henrietta Harrison

Henrietta Harrison - December 16, 2025 at 09:52 AM