



Mary Joy Graham

January 28, 1936 - March 29, 2018

Mary Joy (Timmerman) Graham, age 82 of Thorndale, passed away Thursday afternoon, March 29, 2018 in the Little River Hospital in Rockdale. Memorial services are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Monday, April 2, 2018 in the Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Rockdale.

Mary Joy Timmerman was born on January 28, 1936 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Blackburn in Rockdale, Texas. Her parents were Harry and Mary Ethel (Simmons) Timmerman.

Known to family and friends as Joy she lived in Rockdale until World War II began. The family moved to Orange, Texas where her father worked in a ship yard building destroyer ships. When the war ended the family moved back to Rockdale. She attended schools in Rockdale graduated from RHS in May 1953.

Joy married Billy Clark Graham on August 1, 1953. She was born and raised in Milam County; she lived outside Texas only while her husband, Billy proudly served in the United States Army and after boot camp at Ft. Bliss in El Paso was stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia just outside Washington D. C. this began her life-long love for history but counted the days until they could return to Texas.

Billy and Joy returned home to Milam County where they lived a short time in Rockdale before returning back to the home place Billy loved in Thorndale. The Grahams purchased the Graham home place about 170 acres. They enjoyed having large family gatherings entertaining relatives there on birthdays and holidays. After Billy's retirement in 1985 his passion was the ranch and increased it to about 500 acres.

Joy worked at Gaither Motor Company, Rockdale State Bank, City of Rockdale, Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home and Rockdale Sandow & Southern Railroad Company to 1969, when she became employed at Aluminum Company of America. In 1975 she was promoted as Rockdale Operations first female supervisor in the Mechanical Maintenance Department. She was promoted to Electrode Area Supervisor in 1982 and in 1988 to Quality Systems Supervisor. She retired in 1996.

After retirement Joy's passion was preserving history in Milam County. Her love of history was shared from 1996-2013 with Milam County as she wrote "Bits of Milam County History" published in the Cameron Herald, Rockdale Reporter and Thorndale Champion and carried on the county's two radio stations: KRXT 98.5 and KMIL. Joy was active with restoring the Milam County Courthouse, chairing Milam County "Preserve Our Past" Committee raising matching funds to restore the Courthouse. She was recognized for her service with the Milam County Historical Commission received the 2003 Texas Historical Commission John Ben Shepperd Award for Outstanding County Historical Commission Chairman. Joy was also recognized by the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce and received 2008 Rockdale Outstanding Citizen of the year.

She served at Temple College on Taylor Board of Directors, serving as President and Secretary from 1997 to 2013, Milam County Child Welfare Board, Milam County Appraisal Board, Milam County Historical Commission

Chair from 2000 through 2004 and Chair of Milam County Certified Local Government Committee until 2007 and 2014-2015, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail on the State Board of Directors in 2007 serving as Secretary and Vice President until 2014.

She was a member of The Rockdale Eastern Star Chapter, Three Missions Chapter "Daughters of the American Revolution" in Milam County, Linwood Acres Garden Club, Matinee Music Club, and Rockdale Friends of the Library, Thorndale and Rockdale Chamber of Commerce, Kay Theater Board of Directors and Rockdale Downtown Association.

Her volunteer work supported historical preservation across the county: Sugarloaf Mountain, Davilla Rosenwald School, San Xavier Missions, Apache Pass and the Mission's Presidio.

She especially loved the study of genealogy, She spent countless hours researching the family genealogies: Von Gonten, Timmerman, Modesette and Clark, Graham and Madley and shared them with family members. Her reply to people who questioned history was "How can you know who you really are, unless you know the history of who your ancestors were and what they stood for?"

Her devotion to learning about El Camino Real National Trail, and promoting it through Milam County consumed most of her retirement years. After receiving all the knowledge about the trail she wanted to share it with others so she co-authored the ARCADIA book El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail. Then later she co-authored another book, Historical Bridges of Milam County.

She was a member of the Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Rockdale, Texas.

She was preceded in death by father, Harry Timmerman; mother, Mary Ethel Gore; brothers, John Henry "Johnny" Timmerman and Harry Thomas "Tommy" Timmerman; grandparents, John H. and Ida Timmerman, and Enoch and Mary Luella Simmons.

She is survived by her loving husband Billy of 65 years; daughters, Mary Lee Dyess and Darlen Graham. She leaves three grandchildren and five great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews and their two puppy loves, Mitze and Happy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meadowbrook Baptist Church, 1401 Colorado Avenue, Rockdale, Texas 76567 or to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Meadowbrook Baptist Church
1401 Colorado Ave
Rockdale, TX
<http://www.meadowbrookrockdale.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Joy Graham*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - March 30, 2018 at 04:38 PM

MA

“ *Mary Lee,*

My family and I were so sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Martha Wimberly Barnett

Martha - April 04, 2018 at 09:02 PM

BW

“ *Thank You Joy for so much, Barbara Walko*

Barbara Walko - April 04, 2018 at 08:44 AM

BM

“ *Bob And Donna Melcher lit a candle in memory of Mary Joy Graham*



Bob and Donna Melcher - April 02, 2018 at 10:37 PM

JR

“ *Joan Ratliff lit a candle in memory of Mary Joy Graham*



Joan Ratliff - April 02, 2018 at 02:01 PM

MG

“ *Heard on the radio this morning that Joy had passed. I will always remember her smile and graciousness whenever she would come into my embroidery shop to greet me. She was so sweet and it was always a pleasure to talk to her. She always had a wonderful hug to give and I am sorry she is gone. My condolences to the family.*

Matilde Munoz Garza

Matilde M. Garza - April 02, 2018 at 12:35 PM

CG

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss Mary Lee. Remember the good times with your mom. Stay strong for God is with you.*



Cynthia & George Galbreath - April 02, 2018 at 11:16 AM

GB

“ *Gaye Bland lit a candle in memory of Mary Joy Graham*



Gaye Bland - April 02, 2018 at 08:30 AM

CD

“ I knew Miss Joy when she came into the Appraisal Office researching properties for her various projects. One day was a particularly hard day for me and she noticed that. The next time she came in she asked if she could come behind the counter, I said yes then she asked if she could give me a hug, I said yes. She told me I was a very nice lady and a good employee and don't let anyone tell me different. It was one of the nicest thing I will always remember about her. Wonderful lady. So sorry for the family's loss.

Carol DeLong - April 01, 2018 at 03:29 PM

ON

We were classmates in high school. She was brilliant even then. So sorry for the family's loss.

Olga Alonzo Navarro - April 02, 2018 at 09:43 AM

WC

“ When I met Joy 27 years ago she said, "it doesn't take long to know a good person when you meet one." She was right. I knew immediately she was one of those - the good people.

So sorry for your loss.

H. Wayne Cotten, co-worker

Wayne cotten - April 01, 2018 at 11:45 AM

JY

“ Judy York lit a candle in memory of Mary Joy Graham



Judy York - March 31, 2018 at 03:25 PM

JW

Joy sang for my wedding almost 39 years ago. She had a beautiful voice and carried out my unusual song selections just perfectly. She was so talented in everything.

Jana Waiser - April 02, 2018 at 01:15 PM

CG

“ *Children of David Ray Galbreath purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Joy Graham.*



Children of David Ray Galbreath - March 31, 2018 at 11:12 AM

CD

“ *Mary Lee and Joy*



Chris Dyess - March 31, 2018 at 10:22 AM

JY

Mary Lee, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your sweet family! Such a beautiful picture of you and your precious mother. I know she loved you dearly.

Judy York - March 31, 2018 at 03:23 PM

PB

A Beautiful Picture!

Polly Beachem - March 31, 2018 at 04:22 PM

TG

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Graham family! Like my father David, Joy had a great vast of knowledge on anything Milam County. She was a Joy to talk to and I wish we had more time to get to know one another better. From what I know of Joy she was always involved in preserving our county's heritage. It is sad when you go out into the rest of Texas and not many people know that Milam County or Rockdale exists, it needs more attention and like my dad and me, Joy worked hard to make that happen.



Joy was a wonderful person and always a cheerful giver and helper. She always had a smile and was kind and friendly to everyone. My heart goes out to the family in deep sympathy, Joy has gone home to be with her Lord and we shall surely see her again one day. I am certain that the Lord has a place for her many great talents to be of use in his kingdom.

Joy will be missed deeply and I pray that God will lift the family up and comfort you and give you peace. Its never easy, but time and remembering those we loved and lost, through preservation of their legacy is the best gift we have left, we keep them alive. God Bless you all and remember she is still in you, in your memories and in your heart.

Tracy Galbreath-Young - March 31, 2018 at 10:08 AM

BC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Joy was a wonderful person. I never saw her without a smile on her face. She will surely be missed. My prayers are with the family.

Bonnie Clark - March 31, 2018 at 08:58 AM

JK

“ *Sending Christian love and sympathy to the family of Mary Joy Graham. She contributed much to our town, Milam Co. and its history, and involved in many organizations. June L. Key*

June Key - March 31, 2018 at 01:22 AM

MD

“ *2 files added to the album Mary Lee Graham Dyess Pictures*



Mary Lee Dyess - March 30, 2018 at 09:32 PM

MD

“ *2 files added to the album Mary Lee Graham Dyess Pictures*



Mary Lee Dyess - March 30, 2018 at 09:26 PM

MD

“ *1 file added to the album Mary Lee Graham Dyess Pictures*



Mary Lee Dyess - March 30, 2018 at 09:17 PM

MD

“ 1 file added to the album *Mary Lee Graham Dyess Pictures*



Mary Lee Dyess - March 30, 2018 at 09:14 PM

WC

“ *Wayne Dessens ~ High School Classmate purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Joy Graham.*



Wayne Dessens ~ High School Classmate - March 30, 2018 at 06:40 PM

KA

“ *KathySheppardBright lit a candle in memory of Mary Joy Graham*



kathySheppardBright - March 30, 2018 at 05:26 PM

KA

Joy was always so sweet! Knew her most of my life!! Sorry to hear of her passing!! God called another angel home!!

kathySheppardBright - March 30, 2018 at 05:28 PM



“ 53 files added to the album LifeTributes



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - March 30, 2018 at 03:15 PM

BV

“ I will always cherish the memories of my dear friend Joy. I will always appreciate her helping, suggesting do's & don'ts and whatever she felt I needed in my career as a Milam County employee & also as County Clerk. I am honored to have her support & encouragement. Joy, I will never forget you. Love you!

Barbara Vansa - March 30, 2018 at 02:21 PM

CS

“ So sorry to hear the loss of Joy. She was a very sweet person and was so knowledgeable in the history of Rockdale and Milam County. She was so kind and encouraging to our sons when they were both in the 4-H program. Thoughts and prayers are with her family.



Connie and Harry Schielack - March 30, 2018 at 01:32 PM