



## Mary Leon "Polly" Lummus Ferguson

September 17, 1924 - February 27, 2019

Mary Leon "Polly" Lummus Ferguson was born September 17, 1924 in the community of Newby, (Jewett) Texas, Leon County, to Dorothy Hearder Lummus and Leon B. Lummus, who preceded her in death. She went to be with her Lord Jesus Christ on February 27, 2019 in Austin, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at Gause Baptist Church in Gause, Texas under direction of Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home at 2 pm on Monday, March 4, 2019, Dr. Taylor Sandlin officiating. Burial in Gause City Cemetery, Gause, Texas.

Mary went by her nickname, "Polly" all of her life. She grew up in Gause, Milam County, Texas, and attended public school in Gause and Hearne High School, being a member of the National Honor Society and athletic teams. She attended college at Sam Houston State University and later Texas A&M University in Advanced Map Reading and Interpretation during WWII. She also attended Mc Lennan Community College as a nursing school student.

On September 5, 1944, she married the love of her life, Virgil Dean Ferguson, right before he shipped out to boot camp in the U.S. Navy, deploying later for WWII.

Polly began working in Houston, then was employed from December 1944 to

October 1945 at the Camp Hearne Prisoner of War camp in Hearne, Texas. As a Clerk-Stenographer, her job was to listen during interrogations, then type and record responses from German and Japanese prisoners. In October 1945, she was transferred to the War Dept. in Houston, Texas, until June 1946.

After WWII, Polly and Virgil settled down in Houston where she worked for Safeway Scaffolds as secretary and Office Manager while Virgil attended the University of Houston. Later, the family moved to Wichita, Kansas, McGregor, Texas, and then Valley Mills, Texas.

While Virgil worked as a mechanical engineer (rocket scientist) in the aerospace industry, Polly helped rear the five children at home.

She played piano, violin, and organ and passed on her love of music to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Most of her children had music lessons at school or privately.

Polly was a Girl Scout troop leader for many years and served on the Board of the Bluebonnet Council (1981-1985), eventually being awarded high honors for Girl Scout volunteers (1984-1986, Thanks Badge).

Polly served as Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star in both the McGregor and Valley Mills chapters and earned a 25 years of service certificate; Deputy Grand Matron, District III (1987-88) Grand Chapter of Texas; Pipes of Joy Committee and Historical Committee for Grand Chapter (1988); Founder's Day Committee Grand Chapter (1992); and several other committees through 1997. She was also elected an Honorary member of the Hico, Walnut Springs, Gatesville, Meridian, Copperas Cove, Carlton, Regina, and Hamilton chapters of OES. Polly was the Installing Organist for many chapters throughout central Texas and led several Schools of Instruction for

Eastern Star.

She was the Grand Organist for the State of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star (1997-1998). Virgil was her Grand Escort. As an accomplished pianist, she composed the Brownfield March and Cameo March (1997-1998) for the state delegation.

Polly was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (1978-1983) and served on the McGregor Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Polly contributed to church missions across the central Texas area, ministered to the needy in McGregor, helped at the Methodist Children's Home in Waco, and clothed numerous children in McGregor when she discovered they were in need. She served on a volunteer Board at the First National Bank in McGregor to collect and distribute funds to children who had lost their parents.

Also, Polly was awarded a certificate for over 100 hours Volunteer Service at the Waco Veterans Administration (1976).

She had a passion for genealogy research, making many trips to libraries across the nation to document family history before there was the internet.

She loved buying and collecting dolls, antique and new collections, restoring and sewing era clothes for the oldest ones with love. Her collection was extensive and her Shirley Temple collection would rival that of any collector.

Originally Methodist (her father built Gause Methodist Church), Polly became a member of Gause Baptist Church during her teens. Polly played piano at church and at private parties of young teens at that time. She could play ANY popular song by ear and could transpose keys in an instant. She said, "no one

had money for sheet music." She taught herself how to transpose keys because she "wanted to learn all she could about her instrument" and become an expert. She was.

Polly was a very capable, remarkable woman who kept the family home, the family finances in order, her children clothed, fed, active, involved, and educated them all on a budget. She did it with a sense of humor. All five of her children received degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. She used to joke that THE University should have given her a "group discount."

Her theme song was "Count Your Blessings." She genuinely believed we all should.

The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the LORD.

Proverbs 18:22

Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

Proverbs 31:10

Truly, Polly was the virtuous woman spoken of in Proverbs and her husband of almost 71 years recognized this and loved her all the days of his life. Now they are reunited in Heaven with our Savior Jesus Christ.

She leaves behind her children: Dorothy Hemme (Kenneth), Susanne Vaughan (James), Dennis Ferguson (Kathy), Charles Ferguson (Shannon), and Mary Zoe Blackburn (Jeff). Her 9 grandchildren: Julie Reading, Ethan Hemme, Shelby Freeman, Jessica Davis, Laura Torres, Natalie Blackburn, Trevor Blackburn, Matthew Ferguson, and David Ferguson. Her 7 great-grandsons: Connor, Declan, Aidan, Tristan, Ronan, Gabriel, and Henry. Her sister Rebecca Long and nieces Becky Servat and Janice O'Keefe.



# Cemetery Details

## Gause City Cemetery

102 Oak St.  
Gause, TX 77857

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Gause  
Gause, TX 77857

## Church Service

MAR 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Gause  
Gause, TX 77857

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ I met Polly when I became an Eastern Star. I enjoyed her music playing and she played for me many times. Poly was a very friendly and caring person. She will be missed.

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**Janet Ellingson** - March 02, 2019 at 05:19 PM

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“ CAROL, BUDDY, TEANCE, KEN.... purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mary Leon "Polly" Lummus Ferguson.



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**CAROL, BUDDY, TEANCE, KEN....** - March 01, 2019 at 02:24 PM