



## Sybil Donaldeen Thomas (Tommie) Chapman

December 11, 1926 - September 23, 2014

Sybil Donaldeen Thomas Chapman (Tommie) passed away peacefully on September 23, 2014 in Austin. A graveside service will be held at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Rockdale at 2p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2014. The UT-ex was born on December 11, 1926 in Houston to Carl Elmer and Fannie Edna Tipton Thomas. Sybil grew up in Spring Branch, along with her older sister, Gwendolyn, and younger brothers, Carl and Cedric.

At the age of 16, Sybil graduated from Lamar High School in Houston and was awarded a scholarship to Rice University. Following the advice of her mother, Sybil opted to go to work instead, a decision she only partly regretted. While working, she became friends with Cora Belle Wells, who would later introduce Sybil to her nephew, Robert Raymond "Ray" Chapman. Ray, a Houston 1000 Volunteer, and Sybil were married on March 15, 1946 in Houston.

Ray and "Tommie", as Sybil was known to his family, purchased a house near her parents in the Heights. In Houston their eldest child, Donna was born. The family moved to Rockdale in 1954, where Ray worked at IGC. Living in Praesel Addition, the Chapman family increased in number with the arrivals of daughters Glynnis and Kerstin. Tommie settled in and lived the life of a suburban housewife, making friends and forming a birthday club with some Praesel Addition moms.

The societal changes of the 60s caused her to want to attend college. Tommie began her daily commute to The University of Texas at Austin, where she evolved into Sybil and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970. After graduation, Sybil began her career as a school teacher. She taught for two years in Lexington, before beginning her longtime teaching career in Rockdale. Sybil returned to commuting to UT, while continuing to teach, earning her Master of Education in 1975. She had recently moved to Austin, where she resided with her daughter, Kerstin.

Her interests included education, reading, genealogy and her beloved dog, Daisy.

Sybil is survived by her daughters, Donna Nichter, Glynnis Odom and husband Mark and Kerstin Chapman; grandchildren Natalie Ramirez and husband Cruz and Corbett Nichter and wife Heather; great grandchildren Ryleigh Ramirez, Reese Ramirez, Brian Nichter and Grace Nichter.

She was preceded in death by her siblings and husband.

The family would like to thank Hospice Austin for their care and support.

# Cemetery Details

## I.O.O.F. Cemetery

850 N. Main St.  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

SEP **25**. 2:00 PM (CT)

I.O.O.F. Cemetery  
850 N. Main St.  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Sending sincere sympathy and remembering Mrs. Chapman as a teacher at Rockdale ISD.*

*Bob and Donna Melcher*

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**Bob and Donna Melcher** - September 25, 2014 at 08:32 AM