



Zelma "Louise" Merritt

March 5, 1945 - November 12, 2020

Zelma "Louise" Merritt, age 75, of Rockwall, TX, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on November 12, 2020. She was born on March 5, 1945, in Sweetwater, TX, to George ("Shorty") Washington Stuart and Oma "Thelma" (Jay) Stuart. After a move from Roby, TX, her family made its home in Honey Grove, TX. She ventured to Henderson County Junior College to complete studies and then as a young military wife journeyed and stationed at different bases around the country, until settling in Mineral Wells, TX, for duty at Fort Wolters with the U.S. Army Primary Helicopter School. When her helicopter pilot husband, Capt. Thomas S. Powell was killed in action in Vietnam, Louise was a young military widow with an infant and toddler child. As always, however, Louise's tenacity enabled her to care for her young children with strength and love. Shortly, her in-law family introduced Louise to her soon-to-be loving husband and lifetime partner, Paul.

Her first priority and career in life, Louise was a homemaker, a loving wife, and a devoted and active mother to her large family. She was an active parent, supporting and encouraging her children through participation and efforts in school and countless numbers of clubs, athletics, music programs, and contests. After her children were grown and raised, she was also a partner with her husband, Paul, in their self-owned business Wylie Glass. Later, Louise worked as a clerk in Rockwall County for the Justice of the Peace David Karr until she retired in 2008. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Rockwall and spent years as an active member and even director of FBC's W.M.U. (Woman's Missionary Union) chapter.

Whatever Louise was participating in, she was known to do it with passion and enthusiasm. Whether raising her kids (to be independent, respectful, Christ-following individuals), supporting school organizations, leading church groups, learning about topics affecting Texas justice courts, or enjoying her personal interests, Louise dove in wholeheartedly and completely. No details left unattended.

This approach was also her way when working with her personal interests. In their retirement years, Louise and Paul became RVers and loved long road trips traveling and

enjoying the beauty and wonderment of our beautiful United States including Alaska, and even Canada including the Northwest Territories. In this road team, Paul has been the capable, strong driver and equipment manager while Louise was the packer, navigator, and itinerary planner. True to her nature, their trips were always planned with extensive and meticulous detail. Some of their most beloved road trips took them to enjoy our inspiring U.S. National Parks across the country.

Louise was also an avid, enthusiastic, and generous crafter. She took equally as much joy in sharing her completed craftwork with others as she did in creating them. Often encouraged to consider selling her craftwork, she always refused, saying that wouldn't be as much fun. She wanted to enjoy gifting it to others.

Anyone who crossed paths with Louise for any length of time at all could not help but become aware of her interest in photography and recording life's journey through taking pictures. Her camera was an always-present accessory; wherever Louise was, she was likely to have a camera close by. This was never truer than at another of her favorite past times, family reunions. She looked forward to and planned her calendar around attending several every year. It was one of her greatest pleasures to enjoy spending time visiting with beloved extended family, always learning more about the family, and recording these precious moments in pictures that she happily shared with others who wished to have them.

Her other long-time, deep passion was researching family genealogy. She had an inexhaustible drive to learn more, decipher every clue, and find every detail as far back as possible. Making connections and finding other researchers across Texas and the U.S., Louise loved to work with and share information with others who shared her interest and enthusiasm in genealogy. Her peers knew her to be a determined researcher who was resolute about her information being accurate and backed up with proof, abiding by the GPS (Genealogical Proof Standards). Paul and Louise made a successful genealogy team as he has been her always-willing driver, happily taking her wherever her next clues might be found. A cemetery somewhere along the road outside a small, obscure, or even gone-away town within or outside Texas? Sure, why not. Need to spend a day in some town's library to find a needed rare book or document? You bet, let's take a road trip.

The most common descriptions that have been used when remembering Louise are experiencing her sweet spirit and seeing her big smile. Her presence will be profoundly missed.

Louise is survived by: Her loving husband Paul Merritt of Rockwall, TX; Children: Jeff

Powell (recently deceased, August 2020) of Rockwall, TX; Teresa Powell and partner Roger Johnson of Lewisville, TX; Audra Merritt Dean and husband Reggie of Sunnyvale, TX (with daughter Brynlie Dean); Brett Merritt and wife Loya of Rockwall, TX (with daughter Callie (Merritt) and Kirk Youngblood and daughter Cale (Merritt) and Zach Thomasson); Ron Merritt and wife Kasi of Rockwall, TX (with son Scooter Merritt; step-son Brady Van Bevers and wife Riley; step-daughter Kolby Van Bevers; and step-son Jackson Van Bevers; and Craig Merritt of Rockwall, TX (with son Chad Merritt and wife Emily; and son Cody Merritt); Siblings: Bobby Stuart and wife Kay of Llano, TX; Joe Stuart and wife Sandra of Honey Grove, TX; and Betty Stuart Stephenson of Cumby, TX. She was preceded in death by Capt. Tommy Powell, her son Jeff Powell, her parents, and numerous beloved family members from her extensive family.

With consideration to safety measures for Covid concerns, a graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2020, at Rest Haven Memorial Park in Rockwall, TX, with Pastor Steve Swofford officiating. The family will be live streaming the service on Louise's Facebook page to include loved ones who are not able to attend and will be posted by the family after the day of the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Louise's memory to the WMU/World Missions Ministries fund created in her honor at First Baptist Church-Rockwall (610 S. Goliad St., Rockwall, TX 75087).

Events

NOV **Graveside Service** 02:00PM

16

Rest Haven Memorial Park

2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

Comments



“ It has been my distinct pleasure to be a neighbor and a friend of Louise and Paul. She will be sorely missed. Prayers for Paul and her family.

Rod Gregg - November 21, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of sweet Louise's passing, as I know her loss will be deeply felt. I still remember her thoughtful gifts of crafts, her lovely photography, and her sweet smile. With much love to all the family, Ashley (Burgamy) Eaton.

Ashley (Burgamy) Eaton - November 16, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Worked for Mrs. Merritt for many years as her housekeeper. She was always so thoughtful and kind. Will remember her always with a smile on her face. I am very saddened by the news of her passing. Her family will be in my prayers.
-Hope

Hope Zamarripa - November 16, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ So sorry for your loss of Louise. We have fond memories of Louise welcome to Rockwall. She was a sweet wonderful girl. We enjoyed being together on ski trips to Red River and her fondness of hunting. I am regretful our lives didn't stay closer.
Jerry and Bill Way

Jerry Way - November 16, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ My most cherished memory is the trip that we all took to France during high school. My mom and I along with Teresa and Louise were quite the foursome over that trip. Many great memories of hanging out in restaurants and on trains. I will always cherish that trip.

Terri Watkins - November 16, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ Donna, Jackie, Jeff Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Zelma "Louise" Merritt



Donna, Jackie, Jeff Jacobs - November 16, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ 26 files added to the album Photos



Rest Haven Funeral Homes and Memorial Park - November 16, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ Louise was a great lady and she got to spend her later years with an equally great man in Paul. What a couple they were. So sorry to hear this and god bless Paul and the family.

Billy Frank Watkins Sr. - November 16, 2020 at 09:12 AM



“ Johnny and I have great memories of traveling with Louise on numerous RHS band trips. She was always lively and funny. I pray for peace and comfort for Paul and the extended family during this time of loss.
Jan Willess Johnson

Jan Willess Johnson - November 16, 2020 at 08:32 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Lousie's passing. She was a very sweet and unselfish person. I know she was a great mother and wife. May God welcome her into heaven and give comfort to her family and friends. Markie George

Mark George - November 16, 2020 at 05:14 AM



“ Louise was a very special lady. We were sisters-in-law. Some time after my brother Tommy's death, Gerald and I were proud to introduce her to our long time friend, Paul Merritt. It was a match made in heaven. I always appreciated Louise for her dedication to family, her travel adventures, her skill in researching our genealogy, and beautiful crafts. I will cherish the good times we shared.

Dellene Burgamt - November 15, 2020 at 07:23 PM



“ So sorry to learn of Louise's passing. Such a kind, dear lady that loved everyone, welcomed each new member to FBC and to the community. She was always so interested in you and your family. You are in our thoughts and prayers today and in the days to come. May cherished memories and God's promises lift and sustain you until you meet again. May God's love continue to surround each of you. Rest In Peace sweet lady.

Gill & Louise Henson

Gill & Louise Henson - November 17, 2020 at 03:04 AM