



Marie Hester Hackstedt

Marie Hester Hardcastle Gilliam Hackstedt, age 91, died on May 27, 2015. She was born June 24, 1923 to Joseph F. and Maud Emma (Smith) Hardcastle. A native of Houston, she was born on James St. and raised in Kashmere Gardens where she was a National Honor Society student at Jeff Davis High School. She married Bert J. Gilliam, Jr. on December 1, 1940. While he was serving in World War II, she built their first home on Long Drive. After the war, they moved to the University of Houston campus where their first child was born. Hester studied architectural design, later becoming certified as a mechanical design technician by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). Her career in the oil field engineering business spanned 42 years with WKM, Texas Instruments, and Dresser-Atlas. Foremost, she was the mother of four children, devoting her time to their education and development. In 1963, she and her father built a home she designed for her family in rapidly growing southwest Houston where they lived for the next 23 years. She was a troop leader with the Girl Scouts for 20 years, Sports Director for St. Thomas More School, and designer/seamstress of much of her daughters' clothing. After her children were grown, she designed and built an elegant beach house on the Galveston shore where she resided for 17 years. Her greatest joy was entertaining weekend guests, family and friends. Later in life, she married secondly to Kenneth Hackstedt, a native of Needville. They made their home there on ten acres in the country. After Kenneth's passing, she became active with the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, being named Master Gardener of the Year in 2009 and 2010 and granted Emeritus Status in 2012. She maintained a lifelong passion for Bridge as an ACBL member; and was active in choir and choral groups throughout her lifetime. She loved people and parties and was a member of the Roadrunner Travel Club and Friends Birthday Club for many years. Hester was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, and brothers Eugene and William (Bubba) Hardcastle. She is survived by one sister, Mary Frances Prince; dear friend Al Dockal; daughters Paulette Pohlmann (George), Regina Cockerill (Andrew), and Hester Marla Gilliam, and son Bert J. Gilliam III (Pamela); Grandchildren Christopher, Alyson, and Andrea Cockerill, also Joshua and Christopher Gilliam; nephews Tom Prince and William Hardcastle; Niece Cynthia Cahanin (Chris), and several great nieces and a great nephew. Her remains will be interred near her parents in the Hardcastle Family plot at Forest Park

June 23, 2015 Lawndale Cemetery in a private ceremony. A Celebration of Life potluck reception will be held on Wednesday, June 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Highway 36 in Rosenberg in the Club Room located behind building D. Bring a dish to share (optional) and beverage; no glass bottles permitted by the facility. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in her name to Ft. Bend County Master Gardeners, 1402 Band Rd #100, Rosenberg, TX 77471.