



## Era Mae Harper

December 8, 1919 - December 30, 2009

Funeral services for Era Mae Harper, 90, of Richmond, will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, January 2, 2010 at the First Baptist church in Richmond. Internment will follow at Morton Cemetery in Richmond, Texas, followed by a reception at the church. Services will be officiated by Dr. John Lockhart and Pastor Matt Higginbotham.

The family will receive friends at the church beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 2, 2010.

Era Mae was born December 8, 1919 in McNeil, Mississippi to Bruce and Lula Spears Kennedy. Her father was one of the pioneering employees to open the Thompson Oil Field, so in 1932, young Era Mae moved by wagon into the Brazos River bottom of Fort Bend County. In 1937, after graduating from Richmond High School, she left home to attend Texas Womens University in Denton, but returned in 1941 to teach in the one room Rabb Ridge School in the Thompson Oil Field Camp. On August 25, 1947 she married George Byron Harper, who was employed in the oil field with Humble Oil. In 1955, after having three children, she began teaching at Jane Long Elementary in Richmond, later moving to Deaf Smith. While still teaching, she returned to school and received her Masters Degree in Special Education from the University of Houston. Teaching special education at M.R.Wood Elementary in Sugar Land, she was named Teacher of the Year, before finally retiring in

1975.

In 1959 Era Mae moved with her husband to Richmond. Earlier, she had joined the First Baptist in Richmond, where she taught Sunday school and remained an active member for 58 years. She was a member of the order of the Eastern Star, holding a position of Worthy Matron.

Late in life, after research showed a Kennedy ancestor had died at the Alamo, she joined the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Era Mae passed away December 30, 2009 at Methodist Hospital in Sugar Land.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Bruce and Lula Kennedy; brothers, Clarence Aubrey Kennedy and Billy Earl Kennedy; and her grandson, Christopher Nolan Harper.

Era Mae is lovingly survived by her husband of 62 years, George Byron Harper; children, George Albert Harper, Dennis Nolan Harper and Lola Margaret Collins; sister, Ruby Lee Isleib; grandchildren, Jeffrey Don Harper and wife, Dana, and Dennis Shawn Harper and wife, Renee; great-grandchildren, Laken Che Harper, Alissa Harper, Shaylah Garza and Hayley Marie Harper; along with other family members and friends.

Memorial donations may be made in Era Mae's name to First Baptist Church in Richmond, Texas.

For those wishing, tributes and words of condolence may be left for the Harden Family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral

Home, 3900 B.F. Terry Blvd., Rosenberg, Texas 77471. Phone 281-341-8800

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ I was very saddened to hear of Era Mae's passing. She and I were in Eastern Star together in Rosenberg and she was one of the nicest ladies I ever met. She was so soft spoken and so clearly a highly educated gentle lady. She will be missed.

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**Suzanne Carso** - January 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Dear Harper Family,  
Mrs. Harper was a very special lady. We enjoyed her stories of "old Thompson Bottom".. Dennis always talks about her Pear Pie, none can stand up to Mrs. Harper's. She will be missed by many.. Our heart and Prayers go out to each of you. the Lankfords

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**bernay lankford/ Dennis Lankford** - January 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ So sorry for the loss of Era Mae. She was a lovely lady and will be missed at the Fort Settlement Chapter, DRT meetings.

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**Dorothy Cox** - January 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Dear Byron, George, Lola and Dennis;  
I am so sorry for your loss. I was so surprised to hear of Era Mae's passing. She was such a fine woman, and a woman of faith. There are so many memories of her, her good food, her orderliness, her love of education, her belief in people, her kindness, her hospitality, her common sense. She lived an honorable life, and it was not always easy. I know that she is resting in the arms of God, and visiting with all the rest of her family. My prayers are with you all as you will miss such a rock. God Bless you all,  
Love,  
Essi and Roger and girls.

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**Essi Russell-Hughes** - January 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ To a wonderful Aunt who was always thought of in fondest memories.  
She made us all feel special and extended the love of our family. As a child I spent many times at the home of Uncle Byron and Aunt Era Mae. I will always cherish the memories of my beloved Aunt Era Mae.  
During my present illness, I have had time to reflect about my childhood and realized the great impact and influence that she has had on my life. My deepest regret is that I never told her how much I loved and appreciated her kindness. My thoughts and prayers are with our family at the great loss of a very special lady.

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**Joanna Harper Martin** - January 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ I have many fond memories of Era Mae Kennedy Harper and her family. She was my teacher at the Thompsons school for my first 3 grades and I as well my classmates got a good solid foundation in the Three R's. Thank You! I also knew Mr. George Byron Harper and his parents. God be with you all. and her memory will live on through the lives that she touched.

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**Francis E Beard** - January 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ So sorry to hear that Era Mae has passed. I remember staying at the Harper house as a child, and Era Mae was always kind and thoughtful. My deepest condolences.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Hughes

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**Kelly Hughes Esther Russell-Hughes's daughter** - January 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Dear Harper Family,  
I LOVED having Mrs. Harper as a second grade teacher at Jane Long. She taught us to write in cursive and even medical school didn't make me lose my good handwriting! She was a sweet person and I know she will be greatly missed by many people. All my prayers and thoughts are with you all.

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**Dan Oshman** - December 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I remember Mrs. Harper as a sweet, soft-spoken lady, and the teacher of Thompsons, Texas. My mother and father thought highly of both Mr. and Mrs. Harper, and my brothers and I played with George Albert, Dennis and Lola Margaret in the Thompson camp - it was another world there - a better world. My sympathy goes to all of the family.

*Margie Beard O'Connell*

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**Margie Beard-OConnell** - December 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My condolences to the family for the loss of a very special lady. May God bless you all during this time.

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**Julie Harper Harris** - December 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ The Harper family,  
  
*I loved her stories about Fort Bend County and the oil field days. She was indeed a lady and will be missed.*

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**Sharon Wallingford** - December 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Harper family  
*I have many memories of Mrs Harper beginning in the second grade at Jane Long and beyond. Your family was my second family during my years growing up in Richmond. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Kenneth and Daralyn Schubert*

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**Kenneth Schubert** - December 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM