



## Essie Sturdivant

March 9, 1928 - June 3, 2022

Our dear mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother, and friend, Essie Lenore Sturdivant (Sanford) of Teague, TX, passed away on June 3, 2022, at the age of 94. She was born on March 9, 1928, to Roby Sandford and Lillie Walton Sandford, and was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, James Joseph Sturdivant, son-in-law Frank Dymke, grandson Steven Lee Martin, Jr., and sisters Audie Mae Harrison and Joy Dean Sturdivant.

She was a constant support and source of strength for those of us honored to know and love her. She crafted works of art with her quilts and clothing designs, her coconut cream pie tasted like magic, and she never met a garden she couldn't set to rights. From working in a San Francisco shipyard during World War II in her teens to the meticulous way she tended the final resting place of her husband in her end years, she served God, her family, and her country in the way that Texas families have always done — by making ordinary moments sacred, loving us well when times were good and when they felt impossible, and never taking “I can't” as an answer.

In addition to her friends in our community she is survived by daughters Sandra (Richard) Folk and Barbara Dymke, grandchildren Kimberly (Bubba) Rutherford, Cheryl Rice (John Paul Wisdom), Denny (Stacey) Folk, and Deena Martin, great-grandchildren Kyle Sessions, Trey (Casey) Rutherford,

Kassie (Greg) Iwinski, Whitney (Kary) Ballew, Taylor Rice, James Logan (Alina Hudson) Rutherford, Kyle (Kennedy Vogel) Goerner, Connor Rice, Caitlin Rutherford, Camryn Rutherford, Aeren Rutherford, and Trent Rutherford, great-great grandchildren Cambridge and Townes Rutherford, Aiden, Owen, Emmett, and Evan Ballew, and Joseph and Eva Iwinski.

She will be laid to rest in Cotton Gin, New Hope Cemetery, next to her husband, and many generations of her family. We love you, Ma.

Graveside funeral services will be Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 2:00pm at New Hope Cemetery in the Cotton Gin Community officiated by Bobby Rutherford.

# Cemetery Details

## **New Hope Cemetery**

County Road 971  
Mexia, TX 7667

# Previous Events

## **Graveside Funeral Service**

JUN 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

New Hope Cemetery  
County Road 971  
Mexia, TX 7667

# Tribute Wall

CR

“ I didn't know Ms. Essie...but rest in peace Ms.. I would have loved to have known you! Sorry it took me so long to figure it out, that you're my relative.  
-Corrie

Corrie Rasmussen - January 20 at 09:59 PM



“ Essie Sturdivant

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM

RO

“ I came to know Mrs. Essie as one of my patients she was always nice & kind....my condolences to the family...I was very sad when I heard the news that morning when I got to work. I was her hospice aide for SOLARIS HOSPICE

Rovina - June 16, 2022 at 03:03 PM

KM

“ Karri Minefee lit a candle in memory of Essie Sturdivant



Karri Minefee - June 04, 2022 at 07:55 AM