



Janet Watts

March 29, 1916 - September 13, 2006

Janet Brannon Watts, 90, died peacefully in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 13, 2006. A lover of life and all her extended family, her unwavering faith made her life a testament to all who knew her. Though she had no children of her own, she helped raise many of her 11 brothers and sisters and their children. Her careers in cosmetology, elder care and childcare, including her roles as "dorm mother" at Navarro College and "house mother" at I.O.O.F. Children's Home, allowed her to shower unconditional love on all that she encountered. Born in Blooming Grove on March 29, 1916, she was preceded in death by her parents, William Wiley Brannon and Francis Delaney Brannon; and 11 siblings, Charlie, Stella, Carl, Hubert, Roy Lavester, Burl, James Tommy, William ?Bill? Brannon, Lucille Brannon Boyd, Della Brannon Mabry, Lorraine Brannon Wilson, all formerly of Corsicana. Survivors include nieces, Randye Brannon Carter of Pine Bluff, Ark., Sharon Brannon McCone of Washington, D.C., Ima Lee Brannon King of Corsicana, Martha Brannon Murrell of Fort Worth, Suzy Brannon Cleve of New Mexico and Mildred Davis of California; nephews, Bob Brannon of Garmisch, Germany, Joe Brannon of Fort Worth, Marvin Davis of Corsicana and John Davis of St. Louis, Mo.; and a host of great-nieces and great-nephews. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Griffin-Roughton Chapel. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday preceding the service at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Janet Watts

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ My Daddy, Burl, always had a nick name for everyone. His for Aunt Janet was "Lightening" pronounced lightenin. This was a loving jest meaning she was a "Slow Poke"!

Martha Brannon Murrell - September 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ The Passing of a lovely lady we all loved !

Jane Mc Mullin - September 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ A delightful lady who will be missed by many. Now she can enjoy Holy Water forever as she did at Trinity Village Pool in Pine Bluff. We'll miss her.

Betty & Bill Jones - September 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

“ My Aunt Jay

There are certain advantages to having a last name that begins with the letter 'B.' You get called for things earlier than others, your place in line is usually better, that sort of thing. But I will never forget the first time I really knew what my 'B' stood for. When I was about 6 years old, Janet Watts, my Aunt Jay, sat me on her lap and asked me if I knew I was a 'Brannon.' She always said that name in a special way, with a strong emphasis on the first syllable. The way she said it you could not possibly mistake the name for anything else. It meant more to her than just getting priority for things alphabetical, it defined our identity, it told people who we were. I remember walking from our farmhouse up to Uncle Aud's gas station, into Roy's Café, or on 10th Street in Corsicana over by the old A&P grocery store. Sometimes folks would stop and say 'aren't you one of Burl Brannon's kids?? That always made us feel special, and very proud to be who we were. Aunt Jay used to tell us all stories about growing up in the Brannon family. She had a way with words and everyone loved her stories. We all had our favorites, and since some of you are in the room hearing this, I'll just let that part hang in the air for you to think about. Not long ago, many years after our Dad passed away, Martha, Joe, and Suzy and I were looking through some of the things we found in Daddy's old 'tin box. There were letters in that box he had saved since the 1920s and 30s. There were letters from his Mother, writing about Uncle Bill playing football at Corsicana High, about Janet having a boyfriend, about Lorraine, and Lucille, and Carl, and Toughie, and Exxie, and Roy Levester, and all the rest. Of course we got a big kick out of those letters because it really helped us to understand what life was like for our Dad and his family, how close they all were. I brought some copies of those letters back home and read some of them aloud to Aunt Jay just 3 months ago. She got a look on her face like none of us had ever seen and she smiled at me and said, Do you know you are a Brannon? Brannons are mighty good people. Yes, Janet was

right, Brannons are mighty good people. She was a Brannon, and she always knew it. We'll miss her but we will not forget who she was and we will never forget who we are, because she taught it to us. Thanks, Aunt Jay, say hello to everybody for us, OK.

Robert Burl Brannon

Robert Burl (Bob) Brannon - September 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

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“*Aunt Jay was such a "safe" place in my life when I truly needed one and then for many years later. She is one of my fondest memories of Corsicana and the years I lived there. I know she and Aunt 'Cil and the rest of the family are rejoicing just to be together again! I can't help but wonder if they're not playing a little canasta and drinking lemonade! She was a "mom" to me, as to so many others and has truly blessed my life in many more ways than I could count or remember. I am SO sorry for your loss and know how much she loved you all. She has given you the greatest gift one could ever wish for, the knowledge that she is without a single doubt an angel in heaven today! Love to all, Sheila*

Sheila Cantrell Moeller - September 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM