



## Mattie Medford

June 18, 1919 - November 9, 2012

Mattie Bea, the middle daughter of Ira Nelson Prather and Jewell Baxter Prather, passed away at age 93 on November 9, 2012. She was born June 18, 1919, on family land in Leon County Texas near Marquez, Texas. She attended Concord Schools, graduating in 1936. Her goal was to become a teacher. She achieved this goal serving more than 47 years as an educator and county agent in various Texas locations. She tried to create enthusiasm for learning in her classes, helping her students achieve optimum results. She mentored many students during their years of schooling, and afterwards as they worked in various careers.

She attended Texas State College for Women (TSCW), now Texas Woman's University, in Denton, graduating in 1940. While attending TSCW she met the love of her life, Gene Medford, who was attending North Texas State Teachers College during this time. Mattie Bea took a teaching job at Buffalo Texas High School in 1940. She and Gene were married December 29, 1941, prior to his serving in the Army Air Corp during World War II.

In 1943, Mattie Bea took a job as County Home Demonstration Agent for Walker County, Texas in Huntsville. She remained in this job until 1947, when she moved back to Leon County to be near family while expecting a child. Their son Richard Prather Medford was born November 8, 1947. Mattie Bea resumed teaching at the Concord School, while Gene began working as a

Meteorologist with the National Weather Bureau in Washington D.C., and later New York, before finally returning to Houston. Mattie commuted to Huntsville taking courses and received a Masters in Home Economics Education and Textiles from Sam Houston State Teachers College (SHSTC), now Sam Houston State University, in 1956. Mattie Bea taught elementary school grades at Concord School until 1957, when she was offered a faculty position at SHSTC. Her association with Sam Houston continued some 32 years until her retirement in 1989.

Between 1966 and 1969, Mattie Bea continued her education obtaining a Doctor of Philosophy in Home Economics Education and Textile Science from Texas Woman's University. She later served as Department Chairperson and in Administration at Sam Houston. During her tenure at Sam Houston she helped her Department achieve a significant growth in curriculum, degree programs, student enrollment and overall achievement of enhanced academic credibility. She was actively involved in solicitation and promotion of various scholarship programs for students, as well as sponsorship of numerous student professional and social organizations. One social organization the Delta Kappa Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega, she served as Chapter advisor for a number of years. She was very active in Professional Organizations connected to her field of study, providing consulting and management expertise over the years. She participated with other Sam Houston faculty and administration in such areas as providing consulting reviews and teacher education programs to developing nations in Africa.

Mattie Bea received numerous awards during her career at Sam Houston, including Outstanding Professor Sam Houston State University (1960), Home Economist of the Year in Texas (1980), and Outstanding Home Economics College Teacher (1981).

Mattie Bea loved life in general, her church, her family and heritage, Sam

Houston, and the many associates and friends with whom she crossed paths. She was proud of her ability to call many people all over Texas by name and relate their family history and relationships.

She was predeceased by her husband Gene Medford, sisters Rachel Prather Allen and Eleanor Prather Dube. She is survived by one son, Richard Prather Medford and wife Julie Ann of Fairfield, a grand daughter Corin Kathleen Medford Burrell and husband Eric of Lubbock, a grand son Thomas Edward Childs Medford of Flugerville, great grand daughters Harper Ann Burrell and Elizabeth Prather Burrell of Lubbock, nieces Linda Jean Backus, Patricia Kay Dube, Virginia Kayron Dube, Nancy Jane Dube Bohne and husband Kurt, and Lawren Ann Dube Rives and husband John, one brother in law Lawrence E. Dube, one sister in law Dorothy Medford Murphree Shepherd and husband Ray, nephews Dan Murphree and wife Cathy, Roger Murphree, great nieces Leah Rachel Rives Taylor and husband Jeff, Libby Rives, Carrie Lynn Murphree robbins and husband Blake, Rachel Turner and husband Quincy, Patti Murphree and great nephew Garrett Murphree.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial to the: (1) Mattie Bea Prather Medford Family and Consumer Sciences Endowed Scholarship, or the (2) Family and Consumer Sciences Memorial Endowment Fund, both Sam Houston State University, c/o Department Chair -Department of Family and Consumer Sciences , Box 1242, Huntsville, Texas 77341, or to the (3) First Methodist Church Fairfield Building Fund 201 North Mount, Fairfield, Texas 75840.

Visitation will be held at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, 450 E Main St (FM 488) Fairfield, Texas Tuesday November 13, 2012 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Funeral services will Wednesday November 14, 2012 at 10:30 AM at the First United Methodist Church, 201 North Mount, Fairfield, Texas.



# Cemetery Details

## Fairfield Cemetery

500 East Reunion  
Fairfield, TX 75840

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Fairfield  
450 East Main Street  
Fairfield, TX 75840  
(903) 389-9217  
[info@griffin-roughton.com](mailto:info@griffin-roughton.com)

## Service

NOV 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist - Fairfield  
201 North Mount  
Fairfield, TX 75840  
(903) 389-2225

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mattie Medford*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Dr. Mattie Bea Medford has made a lasting impression on my life and I will truly miss her.*

*I met Dr. Medford when I was visiting the Sam Houston campus in the spring of 1977. She stopped to give me a tour of the Consumer Science department and I was so impressed with the facilities and her warmhearted kindness that I never looked at another campus .I enrolled at Sam Houston in the fall*

*I always admired her for having a doctorate as a woman of her generation*

*She came to class in Ferragamo shoes and her deep knowledge of textiles. She was always interested in her students and wanted everyone to succeed in their career and to keep in touch after graduation. She had beautiful handwriting and wrote the nicest notes.. In recent years , I would stop to see her at the Fairfield nursing home.on my way to Dallas. Sometimes, my dog "Fancy" would be with me. Dr. Medford loved seeing her and so did the residents..*

*I bought a beautiful scarf recently because it reminded me of Dr. Medford. She helped shape my life and I will remember her always .*

*Sandy Ericksen*

Sandy Ericksen - November 18, 2012 at 01:27 PM

JL

“ Jann L. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mattie Medford.



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**Jann L.** - November 13, 2012 at 01:55 PM

RP

“ Mattie and Eugrne Medford were true Chroistian examples. God has blessed us by knowing them! Rest in Peace Bob amd Rosemary Payne

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**Robert D, Payne** - November 12, 2012 at 04:40 PM

JL

*Mattie Bea and my mother Mattie Marguerite shared the same name because they were named after the same person,my grandmother Mattie Burney Prather Neyland. I became close to Mattie Bea the last few years because it was so much fun to see these cousins together sharing stories about their childhood, their double dates in high school, their family history, and their southern history. Evidently, Mattie Bea claimed my mother as her playmate when she went to Bowling to visit grandparents. Mother said Mattie Bea would tell her sisters to go away because she wanted mom to herself. They were the closest in age at 91 and 93. I will miss Mattie Bea leaving her usual message on my house phone. "Jann.....call me. I have not heard from Marguerite lately. You know she is my only living cousin, and I want to know if she is all right." I am sure Mattie Bea knows mother was checking on her last Thursday night.(early Friday morning) My phone rang at 3:49am. Mother asked me where she was, and then proceeded to inquire if anyone in the family had died. She asked me if I was sure. At the time I told her everyone was ok and go back to sleep. Ricky called on Friday morning to give us the news. I think God was just letting us know He speaks in special ways to those who know His voice. We as a family have a special blessing of sharing that Christian heritage.*

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**Jann Lynch** - November 13, 2012 at 01:26 PM

TP

*Dr Medford was my teacher at Sam Houston in 1960. She was much respected and well liked. She will long be remembered.*

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**Teddy Pope** - September 11, 2019 at 11:32 PM