

In Memoriam

Mary Alice Koon

Mary Alice Koon, Brashear, Texas, 96, passed away on April 24, 2025.

She was born on September 13, 1928, one of four children born to the late Phil McDonald Sr. and Mildred (Starrett) McDonald. She graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1944 and married the love of her life, Brody Lee Koon, at the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs, Texas, on June 7, 1950.

Partners in life, they worked together to provide the best for their family and operate a Registered Jersey farm. Mary worked behind the scenes as chief cook and bottle washer, gofer and taxi driver, nurse and counselor and secretary, taking countless messages from potential cattle buyers.

Mary cooked many meals for appraisers, cattle buyers, workers and family. She was known for her Hopkins County Stew, chicken and dressing, lemon meringue pie and award-winning peach ice cream. Brody made many early milk runs to the store because Mary couldn't say no to after-church cookies and milk for the growing boys.

She enjoyed planting a garden, caring for flowers and plants and sharing home-grown vegetables, figs, pears and muscadine preserves. She also loved holidays. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren looked forward to her popcorn balls when trick-or-treating or Easter egg hunting. An annual Christmas tradition was Granny Mary's sharing of the story of Jesus' birth.

Mary was an 81-year member of First Baptist Church. She served as a Sunday school director and third-grade teacher for 26 years and taught vacation Bible school each summer. She professed her most fulfilling moments in teaching were leading someone to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

For many years, she and Brody served on the baptism, Lord's supper and hospitality committees. The couple worked together to ensure their children knew Jesus, and she prayed they would remain faithful to and trust in God and meet her in heaven.

Mary was also a member of the Silvertones Choir, the Diamond Set 55 Plus ministry and Women Mission Union.

Aside from church, she was involved with Reilly Springs Cemetery Association, serving in various capacities as an officer and member.

Known as "Granny" to all, she had a special love for children and youth. She touched the lives of people she met by taking time to listen, showing them she truly cared. She shared her faith in God and His love not only in words, but by the way she lived every day.

She is survived by four children, Randy (Sheila) Koon, Jana (Weldon) DeWitt, Karman (Brad) Holland and Kris (Miki) Koon, all of Brashear; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Brody, in 2015; brothers, Joe McDonald, Luther McDonald and Phil McDonald Jr.; a daughter-in-law, Terri Jordan Koon; and a grandson.

Donations may be made to First Baptist Church, Youth and Children's Ministry, 116 Oak Ave., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.