



Claire Harper

April 13, 2025

Fannie Claire Timbes Harper, 93, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2025, in Terrell, Texas. Born on June 10, 1931, in Mobile, Alabama, Claire lived a life marked by devotion—to her family, her faith, and the communities she served with grace and joy.

Claire was the daughter of Finnie Harmon Timbes and Fannie Belle Mullinex Timbes. She grew up surrounded by music and love, gifts that would shape her life's journey. From an early age, Claire displayed a remarkable talent for singing. Though she received formal training, her soprano voice was a natural gift—clear, strong, and soaring. She performed as a soloist in school and church choirs, at community events, and for weddings and funerals throughout her life.

In the early years of her marriage to H.D. Harper, Claire dedicated herself fully to raising their four children and creating a warm and secure home. Her nurturing spirit and joyful heart were the foundation of their family life. After two decades devoted to motherhood, Claire rediscovered a passion for business. She became a store manager before taking on the role of head cashier at Terrell State Hospital. After retiring from TSH, she continued to work at Lone Star Credit Union until her second retirement.

Faith was central to Claire's life. No matter where she and H.D. moved during their early years together, one of her first acts was to find a Methodist church for her family. She would introduce herself to the choir director with characteristic confidence: "My name is Claire Harper and I am a soprano

soloist.” Her dedication never wavered—she never missed church. Locally, she served as interim choir director for First Christian Church but was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church in Terrell. After retiring to Poetry, Texas, she and H.D. attended Poetry United Methodist Church where she led the music ministry with heartfelt enthusiasm. Later, she returned to First United Methodist Church where her faith continued to sustain her. Claire’s legacy lives on through her loving family: her daughter Elaine Renfro and son-in-law Gary Renfro; her daughter Sharon Boney; her son David Harper and daughter-in-law Cheri; and her son Dempsy Harper and daughter-in-law Scarlet. She was a proud grandmother to Jennifer Root (and husband Nick Zhang), Donovan Root (and wife Crystal Hopper), Mary Jo Boney, Andrew Boney (and wife Charlie), Charissa Harper, and Henry Harper. Her great-grandchildren—Ian Boney, Silas Boney, Bruce Root, Roland Root, Vannah Turner, and Adalind Root—brought her immense joy. She also held dear her nephews John Tiner and Harral Robin; a brother-in-law; three sisters-in-law; step-grandchildren; and step-great-grandchildren.

Claire was preceded in death by her beloved husband H.D. Harper; her parents Finnie Harmon Timbes and Fannie Belle Mullinex Timbes; her sisters, Alma Robin and Helen Tiner; her nephew, Mack Harmon Tiner, niece, Robyna Prescott, and son-in-law Randy Boney.

Those who knew Claire remember her as someone born with a happy heart—a woman who uplifted others with God’s love flowing through her words and actions. Whether leading music in church or offering comfort through song at life’s most sacred moments, she served with humility and joy wherever she was needed.

A celebration of Claire's life will be held at 11:00am, Saturday, April 19, 2025 at First United Methodist Church in Terrell, Texas with interment to follow at Campground Cemetery. Her family will receive friends beginning at 10:00am to service time. May her memory bring comfort to all who were touched by her presence.

In lieu of flowers, donations to First United Methodist Church in Terrell at <https://fumcterrell.churchcenter.com/giving> or to the American Heart Association at www.heart.org would be appreciated.

Cemetery Details

Campground Cemetery

County Road 326
Terrell, TX 75160

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
503 W. College St.
Terrell, TX 75160

Funeral Service

APR **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
503 W. College St.
Terrell, TX 75160

Tribute Wall

BH

“ Claire was the sweetest, most positive and loving person! When she entered the scene everything just got brighter and happier. I loved her first when I met her at TSH; I loved her when I was away from work, and I loved her when I was able to hang out with her. I will miss that fantastic smile. I know she is enjoying being part of the Heavenly choir! 🙏



Barbara Hendricks - April 19, 2025 at 02:35 PM

JD

“ How well miss that smile and her beautiful singing voice. RIP sweet friend.

John and Anne Davidson - April 19, 2025 at 11:24 AM

RS

“ ‘Here is the light, don’t let it go out.’
A bright light is what we should endeavor to be, one that continues to shine from generation to generation.
A glorious star, continuing to radiate, long after we are gone from this world.



Rev Angela Stone-Campbell - April 17, 2025 at 05:16 PM

RS

“ Loved my friend, Claire, so much. She was and still is a bright light.



Rev Angela Stone-Campbell - April 17, 2025 at 05:12 PM

TS

“ Theresa S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Claire Harper.

Theresa S. - April 17, 2025 at 02:05 PM

HF

“ Harper, Lee, Hall and Harper families. purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Claire Harper.



Harper, Lee, Hall and Harper families. - April 16, 2025 at 09:07 AM

BH

“ Claire and I worked in the accounting department at Terrell State Hospital. She always had a warm, cheerful smile and was friendly to everyone. She was a very special lady to all who knew her! Beth Hood

Beth Hood - April 15, 2025 at 10:15 PM



“ Claire, I remembered you being our Cadet leader. You took us camping one spring break. We slept in tents. One the girls got hurt. Not telling names, although I do recall them. You also gave me a baby shower for my daughter with Betty Bassuk. Such memories to treasure. You will be missed. Until we meet again. Sharon Rush



Sharon Collins - April 15, 2025 at 08:24 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Claire Harper.



April 15, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ Claire was loved by all and she always met you with a warm smile.



Kay Squires - April 15, 2025 at 03:03 PM



I first met Claire shortly after moving to Terrell when I went to work at Terrell State Hospital. She was always such a joy to be around. Prayers for her family and friends. She will be missed!

Alison - April 15, 2025 at 05:08 PM

KG

Sharon, Mary Jo and family, I'm very sorry for your loss. I'm honored to have known Claire and am grateful for her dedication to Girl Scouts. She was a wonderful lady.

Katie Geiger - April 22, 2025 at 02:24 AM

LC

Claire was my first Supervisor when I went to work at Terrell State Hospital in 1989. She was such a lovely lady, and I loved her dearly. I'm sure she's leading the Heavenly Choir right now.

Linda Campbell - May 13, 2025

Linda Campbell - May 13, 2025 at 01:49 PM