



## Jean Ann Ables Flatt

April 1, 1930 - August 18, 2022

Jean Ann Ables was born the daughter of O. Terrell and Ruth Kerr Ables on April 1, 1930, in Dallas, TX. After living a full and vibrant life, Jean Ann passed away on August 18, 2022.

From Jean Ann's marriage of 25 years to William T. "Bill" Ponder, her five daughters and one son were born. Vikki Phy/Joe of Fort Worth, TX; Michelle Porter/Ron of Marietta, OK; Deb Miller/Chuck of Corsicana, TX; Janice Ponder/ preceded her in death 2021; Pamela Hooser/Tommy of Paris, TX; Tom Ponder/Julie of Terrell-Mineola, TX. Jean Ann's sister, Joan Ables Hunt of Terrell and numerous nieces and nephews survive her. Three brothers and a sister precede her in death. Other family survivors include her eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Jean Ann graduated from Terrell High School in 1947 then went on to attend North Texas Agricultural College (NTAC) in Arlington majoring in Dramatic Production. In 1991, Jean Ann and Dr. Horace P. Flatt married. Friends since high school, they were an unlikely power couple who worked well together for 30 years. Horace preceded Jean Ann in death on November 22, 2021. Jean Ann was a proud native 6th generation Texan and member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas as well as many other lineage societies. History and genealogy were at the forefront of her life. Appointed by then Governor Bush, Jean Ann served a 6-year term as a Commissioner on the Texas Historical Commission, receiving the prestigious Ruth Lester Life Time Achievement Award from the Texas Historical Commission on her 81st birthday. As an avid

historian and professional genealogist, she volunteered her time and expertise to the Riter C. Hulsey Public Library in Terrell where she had completed over 7000 hours of service.

Burial to be beside her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Victoria Kerr in Oakland Memorial Park Cemetery in Terrell, Texas.

Funeral service will be at 11:00am, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022, at First United Methodist Church in Terrell with a private interment to follow. Jean Ann's family will receive friends beginning at 10:00am to service time.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Memorial Park

1000 W. Moore Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

AUG 24. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Jean Ann Ables Flatt*



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**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - August 24, 2022 at 04:31 PM



“ *Jean Ann Ables Flatt*

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October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *John D. Rutledge lit a candle in memory of Jean Ann Ables Flatt*



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**John D. Rutledge** - July 24, 2023 at 03:00 PM

RY

“ Late to get this news but want to share a memory. She was a cousin, fairly removed, but a cousin nevertheless through the Ables family. I met her while doing family research and she invited me to her genealogy room in the Kaufman house. Many family documents lived there. And, stories and lunches and laughter and hugs. May she rest in peace and light perpetual shine on her.



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**Robin Yaklin** - October 14, 2022 at 05:26 PM

LJ

“ A dear friend for over twenty five years through our great interest in genealogy and other shared groups. She lit up every room, inspired so many and was so generous to share and give of herself. We visited about two weeks prior to her passing as she shared her thoughts. So many are so thankful to have her as a friend. God Bless her family. Thankful Jean Ann is at Peace now.

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**Linda Juba** - August 24, 2022 at 06:22 PM

JB

“ Judy Beesley lit a candle in memory of Jean Ann Ables Flatt



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**Judy Beesley** - August 24, 2022 at 09:22 AM

CT

“ Cheryl Thomasson lit a candle in memory of Jean Ann Ables Flatt



Cheryl Thomasson - August 24, 2022 at 09:17 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Jean Ann Ables Flatt.



August 23, 2022 at 11:38 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jean Ann Ables Flatt.



August 23, 2022 at 10:19 AM



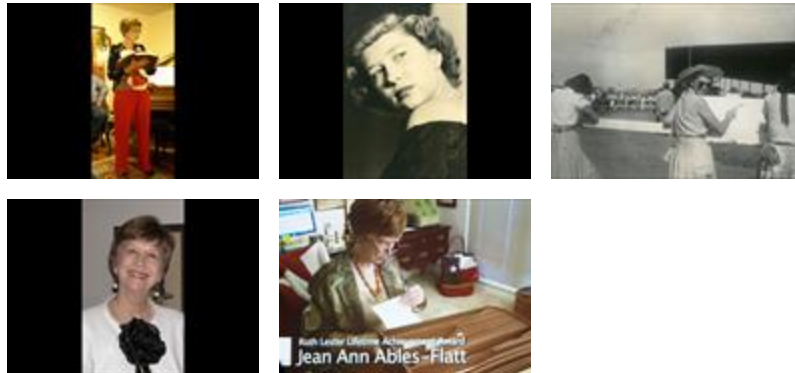
“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jean Ann Ables Flatt.



August 23, 2022 at 09:24 AM

DM

“ 25 files added to the album Jean Ann Ables Flatt



Deb Miller - August 22, 2022 at 10:02 AM

BP

“ Jean Ann was a longtime member of the Wesleyan Fellowship Class at Highland Park United Methodist Church. She and Horace were active members and contributed much intellect to discussions! We benefitted from their actions. Rest in peace now.

Beth Weems Pirtle - August 21, 2022 at 09:46 PM

DB

“ Debbie & Phil Bacon lit a candle in memory of Jean Ann Ables Flatt



Debbie & Phil Bacon - August 21, 2022 at 05:37 PM

AG

“ We've lost a legendary and unique personality that was right at the heart of so many happenings and many years of residential and business building accomplishments during the greatest and the glory years of Mesquite, Texas where Jean Ann and Family made such an impact. It was during these years that the City of Mesquite was at its peak culturally and socially, and Jean Ann-Bill-and-Family were at the center of the shining city at that time, Jean Ann setting a major style presence for all she came in contact with. Her family's many contributions to First Methodist of the time helped in major ways to make that church and congregations such a dynamic force at that particular period in history---the peak of that congregation and its missions and reach in the community. I know from personal, direct experience that Jean Ann was one of the very first and strongest and most active believers in the redevelopment of Downtown Mesquite, and Jean Ann was responsible for the very first efforts to get the State and National Main Street organizations to catch the Vision for Downtown Mesquite in the 1990s and early 2000s when things Downtown looked the bleakest. The recent achievements in turning-around-the-decline-and-decay of Downtown Mesquite/Main Street Mesquite/South Mesquite owe a big thank you to Jean Ann. We'll never forget her pioneering work, we'll never forget her never-give-up/never-give-in spirit. It's with grateful hearts that we count it a privilege to have joined forces with Jean Ann on many civic and historical undertakings. We'll meet her once again "in the New Morning" of Downtown Mesquite, Texas revitalization and renewal. May God comfort and bless her large family and friends near and far. And thank you, Jean Ann, for being a close and loved friend of my mom for decades. ---Art Greenhaw, family friend always and forever--

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**Art Greenhaw** - August 21, 2022 at 04:52 PM

SA

“ Our Family the same y were next Next Door Neighbors of Jean Ann and Bill.. We all built our Homes on Riggs Circle in 1964. Our Children grew up together.  
My deepest Sympathy to each one of You Girls, and Tom....and all of Your Family. Jean Ann was an amazing Woman off Many Talents. She will be greatly missed... God Bless Each of You. SA

Sammye Anderson - August 21, 2022 at 03:27 PM

LU

“ Lone Star Chapter UDC purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Jean Ann Ables Flatt.



Lone Star Chapter UDC - August 21, 2022 at 10:36 AM

GC

“ So sorry to hear about Jean Ann. Such a delight of a woman.

Georgia McDaniel Cheek - August 20, 2022 at 09:14 AM

CK

“ Kaufman County lost a very sweet lady and she will be missed.

Coleen Kilmer - August 20, 2022 at 02:10 AM

DH

“ Jean Ann was such a good and faithful friend. She will be sorely missed. Horace and she were such special people. I remember Kay talking to her in the early days of Covid when she was quarantined in her assisted living center in Dallas. Kay said, “Jean Ann, this too will pass.” Her answer, with her usual quick wit was “I know, honey. I just don’t want to pass with it!” Prayers and condolences to all her family.

David Hinds - August 20, 2022 at 12:07 AM

JS

Condolences to Tom, his sisters and the rest of the family 🙏 .

Janice Kay Squires - August 20, 2022 at 11:07 AM

JL

I will always treasure the memories of the many years I worked with Jean Ann and Horace as Commissioners of the Kaufman County Historical Commission. Jean Ann was my dear and close friend. I will miss her.

If Heaven can be improved, Jean Ann and Horace will work on it.

Jamie Laywell

Jamie Laywell - August 22, 2022 at 03:12 PM



I was so sad to learn of Jean Ann's death. I visited her a few weeks ago and we chatted about many things including the BFTS Museum as I had recently listened to the tape of her teenage years and experiences with the cadets. Such a lovely person and a dedicated historian. Such a loss to Terrell and Texans who love their state.

Liz Oliphant - August 23, 2022 at 04:32 PM

SR

Jean Ann is an inspiration. I say is because her life's work will live on through the branches of our family. Her work will never be forgotten, nor will her vibrant enthusiasm for helping everyone around her.

S Rutledge - November 08, 2022 at 02:05 PM

LM

*Dear Family of Jean Ann,  
I corresponded with Jean Ann through email about our mutual family,  
the Speir's of NC. I sent her an approved Jamestowne Society  
application on my John Speir who was a Burgess at Jamestowne. I  
sure hope she was able to prove her William Speir to this John Speir.  
May she rest in peace.*

*Linda Alcott Maples with many relatives in Texas*

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**Linda Alcott Maples** - April 04, 2023 at 10:59 PM

FS

*I taught with Jean. She was fun, funny, bright, and a joy to be around.  
Best wishes and thoughts to her family. Frank Steele*

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**Frank Steele** - November 30, 2023 at 01:20 PM