



Martha Jo Holbert Massengill

September 21, 1918 - June 1, 2016

“Sometimes you get the chance to grow old with the ones you love. Your body fails even when the mind and spirit are strong. The choice is to live every day in dedication and devotion to the people and passions you love” (these words were found on a note dated May 16, 2016 and written by our “Mimi” who did just that).

Martha Jo Edwards Holbert Massengill, 97, of Terrell, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2016 surrounded by family. Martha Jo was born on September 21, 1918, the fourth child to the late Turner Wesley Edwards and Kate Lee Felkner Edwards of Terrell. She graduated Salutatorian from Kaufman High School in 1936 and went on to attend The University of Mary Hardin Baylor. She graduated from North Texas State University with a double degree in Business and Education and was voted “Most Beautiful” by her classmates. She always enjoyed returning to campus for special events and her Alpha Delta Pi sorority sisters and their June reunions for more than 70 years.

While at North Texas State University, Martha Jo met Joe L. Holbert. After graduation, she moved to Junction, Texas, to teach high school seniors. Joe was the football coach and they married on June 7, 1941. After Pearl Harbor, Joe enlisted in the United States Navy. They lived in San Diego, California, before she returned to serve as High School Principal for Crandall ISD. Following the war, they owned and operated Holbert’s Fresher Foods in Terrell for more than 30 years. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters, Pamela Holbert Small of Austin and LeeAnn Holbert Hutchison of Terrell.

While raising their family in Terrell, Martha Jo was active in social and political endeavors. She served as Co-Chair of Terrell’s Centennial Celebration, City Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Directors of Terrell State Bank, Terrell Garden Club and Browning Club. For more than 70 years, she enjoyed her Tuesday Bridge Club. She read the Dallas Morning News cover to cover daily to “keep up” with world affairs and sports. Travel was her passion, and she traveled the world. Until recently, she was a lifelong Democrat. Martha Jo represented Kaufman County as a State Delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention and served on the State Democratic Executive Committee. She was

a faithful Sunday school teacher and the oldest living member of the First Baptist Church of Terrell. She deeply appreciated her church family, especially Thelma Stroman, Dr. and Mrs. Casey Risinger and family who visited her often after she was unable to attend services regularly.

Joe preceded her in death in 1979, and she was later married to Fred I. Massengill and Dr. James F. Graham, both of whom preceded her in death as did her brothers Granville, Clifford and Jack Edwards and sister Christine Kelley, and son in law, Paul Hutchison.

Martha Jo was a loving, devoted and generous Mother and Grandmother and leaves behind to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy her daughters LeeAnn Hutchison and Pamela Small and son in-law Ed, six grandchildren: Cecily Small Gooch and husband Scott, Clint Small and wife Allison, Cortney Hutchison, Paige Hutchison Beesley and husband Glen, Martha Small Dyess and husband James and Owen Hutchison and wife Kari, her twelve great grandchildren Josie, Ceci and Vince Gooch, Annie and Edward Small, Charles and Kate Dyess, Sloane, Marin and Weldon Beesley, Gavin and Jack Hutchison, and her loving nieces Carol Owens, Cathy Edwards and Velvet Glass.

Martha Jo will be remembered by family and friends for her positive attitude, devotion to God and church, loving touch, and her kind and gracious spirit. She was loyal and devoted to her friends and family and encouraged them to live each day with a sense of adventure, a thirst for knowledge and a grateful heart. Her last wishes for her family were that they would enjoy each other, travel the world, and live well with honor and grace. Her life is the definition of a "life well lived".

A memorial service and reception will be held at the First Baptist Church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 4, 2016, and burial will be a private family service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX 75219 or the First United Methodist Church, 503 W. College Street, Terrell, TX 75160.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Memorial Park

1000 W. Moore Avenue
Terrell, TX 75160

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Terrell
403 N. Catherine
Terrell, TX 75160
<http://www.fbcterrell.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha Jo Holbert Massengill*

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *316 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - June 04, 2016 at 10:54 AM

DK

“ *My thoughts and prayers,are with all of you. I loved Martha Jo and loved hearing of all her travels around the world. It,was my honor and privilege to sit with her. As she read the paper to me while I cooked for her we shared many laughs. She,was a real lady in every sense of the word. What a treasure to know her. My heart goes out to you her family. Mimi was loved so much and her beautiful smile showed her love for each of you. May the Lord comfort all of you with peace.*



Donna Kelly - June 03, 2016 at 10:59 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Martha Jo Holbert Massengill.*



June 03, 2016 at 07:57 PM

DK

“ Dear LeeAnn and Pamela and to all your family! What a wonderful full life your Mom has lived! What a gracious and beautiful person she was! I know Miss Opal Kate Webb Kelley and all her other cousins and family are greeting her with open arms. She will be at home in heaven with them all. My prayers for you all at this Special time!

Darlene Kelley, Angel Kelley Raby and DeeDee Kelley!

Darlene Kelley - June 03, 2016 at 03:27 PM

SF

“ Mother Massengill was always sweet as she looks in this picture. We enjoyed of being with our Travel Agents luncheons with her daughter. What a pleasure it was to be with her doing these fun times. Sally Fisher

Sally Fisher - June 03, 2016 at 12:51 PM

IV

“ Ian & Vi purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martha Jo Holbert Massengill.



Ian & Vi - June 03, 2016 at 01:23 AM

KM

“ Mimi was a blessing to all that had the pleasure of knowing her. Her love and dedication to others was such a treasure. Her sharp mind was always full of knowledge that she shared with others. Her love for the newspaper and CNN gave her the ability to know all current events. I personally received an abundance of advice from Mimi that I will always treasure. The way she opened her heart and soul to me cannot be duplicated. I will always appreciate the love and care she showed me and my family. I will truly miss her sweet spirit. She spoke with a soft voice, but her words were powerful. I appreciate her family giving me the opportunity to know and LOVE this wonderful woman.

My love,

Kay Bryant Martin

Kay Bryant Martin - June 02, 2016 at 09:15 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Martha Jo Holbert Massengill.*



June 02, 2016 at 08:06 PM

HB

“ *Pam and Lee Ann, you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Your mom was not only a gracious and caring lady but also a whole lot of fun to be around. I have many great memories of her as we were growing up.*

Huey & Leeanna Bartlett - June 02, 2016 at 08:06 PM

MD

“ *Mimi - you taught all of us about love, compassion and how to truly live life to the fullest. You always had the most positive attitude and never met a stranger. We celebrate your life the way you would want us all to. Much love, the other Martha, Martha Small Dyess*

Martha Small Dyess - June 02, 2016 at 03:41 PM

AB

“ *Our most sincere condolences to Pam and family. You are the very salt of the earth. With our kindest regards, Austin & Nana.
Ps: 116:15. Amen!*

Austin Brown - June 02, 2016 at 11:41 AM

MH

“ *Loved her so much. Condolences to the family. Merita Harper*

merita harper - June 02, 2016 at 11:35 AM

WW

“ *With much love~ Travis & Michelle Wilson purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Martha Jo Holbert Massengill.*



With much love~ Travis & Michelle Wilson - June 02, 2016 at 12:10 AM

~F

“ *~Starbucks Family~ purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martha Jo Holbert Massengill.*



~Starbucks Family~ - June 01, 2016 at 06:19 PM

T.

“ *Owen, your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*
~Starbucks Family~



T.Brown - June 01, 2016 at 05:10 PM