



Wanda LaVelle May

February 16, 1923 - March 3, 2024

Wanda LaVelle May, nee Nunley, resident of Trenton, Illinois, formally a long-time resident of Brownwood, Texas, passed away on March 3, 2024, at Trenton Village, Trenton, Illinois, at the age of 101 years.

Wanda, the youngest of her family, was born to Alpine P. Nunley and Sarah Almira "Allie" Nunley, nee Hall, on February 16, 1923, in Benjamin, Texas.

Wanda married Ernest R. "Ernie" May on April 20, 1950, in Lovington, New Mexico.

Children of the family include Ernestine Messick, nee May, Jerry May, Toni Docken, nee May, Michael May, and Philip May.

Wanda grew up in Benjamin, Texas. Her mother sewed for people so Wanda could take piano lessons, and Wanda would get her practice in on the church and school pianos. She loved writing stories and acting them out with her niece, Nadine Griffin, nee Parker, who was more like her sister. Wanda loved school and learning, graduating Valedictorian of her Benjamin High School class. After high school, she went to Draughon's Business College in Wichita Falls, Texas. From there, she went to California and worked for Western Union at Camp Roberts, California.

Whatever Wanda put her hands to, she did it with her whole heart. She was a

loving wife and mother, who devoted her time to making a home where her family was loved and welcoming to others into the family fellowship.

Wanda loved her local church wherever she lived including: Benjamin, Texas; Lubbock, Texas; Hood River, Oregon; Brownwood, Texas; and Trenton, Illinois. She accepted Christ as her Savior at the age of 13 and served the Lord in many different ways: playing the piano, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, and being the church secretary at Rocky Creek Baptist Church of Brownwood, Texas, until she was 85.

She was a career secretary before her final secretarial service at Rocky Creek. She held secretarial positions at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, the County Extension Office in Hood River, Oregon, and the 4 H Center in Brownwood, Texas.

Wanda somehow found time to sew and make crafts from which many of her family members benefited. She loved singing hymns around her piano with her husband, Ernie, children, and friends. She was a master at the Texas 42 dominoes game. Most of her family wanted her as a partner. She also loved traveling with her husband, Ernie, in their camper from coast to coast. Another thing she loved doing with Ernie was managing a 4-H Camp one summer in Salem, Oregon. Picking giant blackberries in that location and making jams and pies was a real hit for everyone!

Wanda dearly loved her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. However, they had to share her affection with her passionate love for the state of Texas and the Dallas Cowboys. She was a true Texan. Her father gave her a gun at the age of 13, then her brother Floyd took her hunting and taught her how to shoot rabbits. She was known for her Texas staples: Texas red beans, cornbread, and pecan pie.

Family members who proceeded Wanda in death are:

Husband, Ernest R. "Ernie" May;

Parents, Alpine, and Allie Nunley, nee Hall;

Siblings, Ethel Parker, nee Nunley, JT. Nunley, Tom Nunley; Obie Nunley,
Dorothy Callaway, nee Nunley,
and Floyd Nunley;

Children of the family, Jerry May, Toni Docken, nee May;

Son-in-law, Paul Docken;

Grandchild, Valerie Williams, nee Messick.

Children of the family who survive Wanda are:

Ernestine (John) Messick;

Michael (Natalie) May;

Philip (Gayla) May;

Grandchildren of the family:

Kim Morrison, nee Messick;

Steven (Erin) Messick;

Ryan Messick;

Jason (Ashley) May;

Kelly (Christa) May;

Cheyenne May;

Jerry May, Jr.;

Dulcy Docken and close friend Jannon Frank;

Michael J.(Melissa) May;

Sarah (Stephen) Campbell, nee May;

Andrew May and close friend Wendy West;

Jenna (Travis) Cox, nee May;

Philip T. May;

Kara (Theron) Fisk, nee May,

Very close friends, like grandkids, David (Beverly) Eckell, Cameron (Sydney)

Eckell, and Benjamin Eckell

Wanda also shared her love and smiles with her surviving great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, as well as great-nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special appreciation to West Gate Baptist Church, Trenton, Illinois; Trenton Village administration and staff; the city of Trenton, even though she was an 8-year transplant from Texas she felt at home in Trenton; HSHS hospice for last-days care; Philip Moss, Moss Funeral Home, Breese, Illinois, and Davis Morris Funeral Home, Brownwood, Texas.

Visitation will be Friday, March 15 from 5pm to 7pm at Heritage Funeral Home Davis-Morris Chapel, Brownwood, Texas, and March 16 from 10am to 11am at Rocky Creek Baptist Church, Brownwood, Texas. The funeral service will follow at 11am with Pastor Blu Tidwell, Dr. Michael May, and Reverend Rick Justice officiating. Burial will follow at Rocky Creek Baptist Cemetery, Brownwood, Texas.

Also, there will be a celebration of life for Wanda at West Gate Baptist Church, Trenton, Illinois, on April 13, starting at 10 AM.

Memorials can be made to a central fund (Church Fund) for Wanda's beloved local churches to honor Jesus Christ and the work of His Gospel, the Good News.

Condolences to: Heritage Funeral Home Davis-Morris Chapel: www.heritagefuneraltx.com; or Moss Funeral Home: <https://mossfuneralhome.com/>, for Trenton, Illinois.

Cemetery Details

Rocky Creek Cemetery

4300 County Rd 557 Ln
Brownwood, TX 76801

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Heritage Funeral Home - Davis Morris Chapel
800 Center Ave
Brownwood, TX 76801

Public Viewing

MAR 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Rocky Creek Church
4300 County Road 557
Brownwood, TX 76801

Funeral Service

MAR 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Rocky Creek Church
4300 County Road 557
Brownwood, TX 76801

Tribute Wall



“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fulton Family Funeral Home - March 14, 2024 at 05:36 PM



“ 145 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fulton Family Funeral Home - March 12, 2024 at 02:52 PM

CS

“ To Wanda’s Family,
What a wonderful privilege you and I had in knowing Wanda May. She was a special woman and I know she loved you beyond compare. I had the honor and privilege of being in her home in Hood River one summer with Gayla and Phil. Truly sweet memories I will never forget. She loved gospel music and especially her “Daybreak” bunch. Before she left Brownwood I was able to take her my tape of Daybreak singing. She was so excited to get it as I knew she would be as she had already played out her copy!! Just imagine the wonderful choir she is listening to today!! She’s probably singing along with all her friends and family! I know she’s seen Jesus, our Lord and Savior and what a comfort it is to know we will see her again. Praying God’s peace and comfort for you all.
Blessings, Crystal Hughes Sutton

Crystal Sutton - March 12, 2024 at 01:49 PM

MM

Crystal,
Thanks for sharing the special time you had with Wanda and the love of music and gospel songs you shared with her.
“Daybreak “ filled her with joy not for the music alone, but also for all who sang to spread the Gospel.
God Bless You,
Mike and Natalie

Mike and Natalie May - March 17, 2024 at 11:18 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda LaVelle May.



March 11, 2024 at 07:04 PM

FM

“ From The McWilliams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wanda LaVelle May.

From The McWilliams - March 11, 2024 at 07:04 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda LaVelle May.



March 11, 2024 at 05:24 PM

WF

“ With love, Nanette, Hoop, and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wanda LaVelle May.



With love, Nanette, Hoop, and family - March 11, 2024 at 04:51 PM

ER

“ Eve, Juanita, Ronald purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Wanda LaVelle May.



Eve, Juanita, Ronald - March 11, 2024 at 03:27 PM

DF

“ *Diane Cline and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wanda LaVelle May.*

Diane Cline and family - March 11, 2024 at 02:05 PM

DF

“ *Diane Cline and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Wanda LaVelle May.*



Diane Cline and family - March 11, 2024 at 02:05 PM