



# Velma Grimes Bryce

OCT 14, 1913 - JUN 9, 2008



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FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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## **Velma Grimes Bryce**

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**V**elma Grimes Bryce left this earthly place to be with her Savior in her heavenly home on June 9, 2008, after a period of failing health. She was 94 years of age. Velma, born on Oct. 14, 1913 was the youngest daughter of Lena Hopson Grimes and William Iverson Grimes of the small community of Bald Hill, outside of Lufkin. She met her late husband, Homer Lee Bryce, community leader and businessman, while they both were attending Stephen F. Austin State College in Nacogdoches. He was the love of her life. The story goes that Homer spotted Velma walking across campus wearing a cute little red coat and just knew he had to meet her. Indeed, they did meet and marry and after a stint of teaching they decided to move to the promising town of Henderson to start a business and family. Together they owned and operated Bryce's Cafe', a popular eatery for 19 years on the courthouse square in downtown Henderson.

Velma and Homer had three daughters; Jerry, Jane and Judy. Velma was the gold standard for being a wonderful and loving homemaker. Her family and home were her pride and joy and she worked tirelessly to be a Godly woman, "more precious than rubies." She loved sewing beautiful dresses for the girls and one would never find her without a project of some type of handwork in her basket. She also loved working in her yard and had mastered the art of growing roses, camellias and sweet peas. She especially enjoyed her success with hundreds of African Violets, which she nurtured throughout her home.

Because of these hobbies, she enjoyed the camaraderie of the Sew Sew Club, the Henderson Garden Club, Henderson Women's Forum and Needle Art Club. Velma was also an avid reader, which went hand-in-hand with her scholarly study of the Bible for a Sunday School class at First Baptist Church. In support of learning, Homer and Velma along with family and friends, established the Homer and Velma Bryce Scholarship Endowment at Stephen F. Austin University.



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One of the treasures of her life was always her close circle of friends. Many afternoons were spent having four o'clock coffee with any one of her many friends visiting and exchanging recipes. This seraphic woman was a devoted and sweet friend who was not only willing to carry her own burdens, but those of her friends, as well.

Even though she was wee-traveled, making trips to West Virginia, New York City and Europe, she always was happiest at home with her family. Her girls were truly her best friends in her later life.

Those who knew Velma, knew her to be a strong woman with high principles and most importantly, a woman who loved the Lord.

The following hosts of family and friends will forever sing her praises for the example she has left us all: daughters, Jerry Ann Bryce Blackwell and Mary Jane Bryce Wilhite of Henderson and Judy Lee Bryce McMillin of University Park, Texas; sons-in-law, the late Jimmy D. Blackwell, Michael T. Wilhite and James A. McMillin; grandchildren and their spouses, Tahsha and Aristotelis Trikilis, Blake and Karen Blackwell, Lee Ann and Andy Mills, Michael and Laurie Wilhite, Jennifer and Edwin Holt, Joanie and James Cooley; great-grandchildren, Brooke Ann Blackwell, Bryce Allen Blackwell, Andrew Harrison Mills, John Michael Mills, Mary Ann Frances Mills, Williams Solon Holt, James McMillin Holt, Homer Bryce Holt, Edwin Solon Holt III, James Harrison Cooley III and Charles Preston Cooley; niece Charlotte Monty; and nephews, Major Lou Harville and Dean Harville.

Velma was preceded in death by her dear sisters and brothers: Ila Alexander, Rella Harville, Watson Grimes and Carl Grimes.

We extend our deep gratitude to the sitters who lovingly cared for our mother as if she was a china doll; Arene Ware, Marretta Brown, Camella Key, Joyce Mitchell, Linda Jones, Claire Hutchings and Pam Clear.

Simple words cannot express our depth of appreciation to our friends who cared for Mommy; her doctor Sandy Ladage and his wife Toinette, her physical therapist Arlene Acres and grandson Blake Blackwell. All were God's instruments in helping our precious Mommy to live as long as she did.

In her final days, the nurses and aides of the Henderson Memorial Hospital fourth



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floor provided tender, loving care that was more than we could have ever asked for.

We thank you all.

The family will meet friends at the Bryce home at 1700 W. Main St. from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2008. A family graveside will be held Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at Lakewood Memorial Park with Dr. Sandford Ladage, Dr. Greg Johnson and Rev. Bill Tisdale officiating. Services are under the direction of the Rader Funeral Home of Henderson. Pallbearers will be Mike Wilhite, James McMillin, Andy Mills, Michael Wilhite, Blake Blackwell and Edwin Holt.

A memorial guestbook may be signed online at [www.raderfh.com](http://www.raderfh.com) and at Rader Funeral Home, 800 Kilgore Dr. in Henderson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church Library Fund, West Main, Henderson, Texas 75652.



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Hello Judy:May the Lord comfort and keep you!##imported-begin##Patti Wilder Royce##imported-end##

June 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Judy,We were sorry to hear of the loss of your dear Mother. You are in our thoughts and prayers, we love you and think of you often.Mary##imported-begin##Jack and Mary Wilder##imported-end##

June 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Judy,My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.Karen##imported-begin##Karen Mortazavi##imported-end##

June 12 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Judy, our love and prayers are with you. You are the best daughter a mother could have! May God hold you in the palm of His mighty hand. Our love to your whole family.##imported-begin##Polly and Gerry York##imported-end##

June 12 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I was sorry to hear about the death of Mrs. Velma, but thankful that she is now with Jesus! Your family is in my prayers as you journey through this difficult time.##imported-begin##Mary Gaddy Wade##imported-end##

June 11 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Jane,I'm so sorry about your Mom but she had a full, good life.She was a nice person. I enjoyed seeing you at Kroger in December of '07.Sincerely,Billy##imported-begin##Billy Martin##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Judy,May God be with you and your family and show you His comfort as you deal with the loss of your precious mother. I know she meant so much to all of you.God Bless,Amy Carver##imported-begin##Amy Carver##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

During this time of loss, may God's daily presence minister to your every need. With Deepest Sympathy, Chad & Kim##imported-begin##Chad & Kim Dean##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our prayers and thoughts are with you girls and your families at this time. We know how heartbreaking it is to have to give up your mother and grandmother.##imported-begin##Phabreece Bryce Havis##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

##imported-begin##Jo Anne Dowden##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

##imported-begin##Judy Price##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Jerry, Jane and Judy, Velma Bryce was all that was said in her obituary. She was truly a fine, creative, intelligent and kind woman of faith. My earliest memories of her were those long ago days when she traded creative sewing secrets with Hazel Martin, and my mother, Ora Lea Griffin, who will be 99 on July 5. Mother admired your precious mommy's genteel, yet strong character and willingness to share. Jerry and I extend our prayers and love to you and yours. ##imported-begin##Pat Bridges##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I send my heartfelt sympathy and prayers to all of the family in the loss of your Mommy. May God comfort each of you every day. ##imported-begin##Jane Fahle##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

We are so sorry for the loss of your precious mother. Although we did not know your parents, our daughter, Sara, has been a recipient of one of the Homer and Velma Bryce Scholarships at SFA for the last two years. Our youngest daughter, Ashley, was just notified that she too would be receiving one of the scholarships your parents so generously endowed to so many SFA students. It takes good people in this world to be so caring and giving to young people that they don't even know personally. I pray God helps you through this time of sadness for your family. The Curtis Family Price, Texas ##imported-begin##Nancy and Curt Curtis##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Judy, Betsy Brooks notified me of the death of your Mom. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. May you feel the presence of our Heavenly Father's arms wrapped around you and all those you hold dear at this time. Love, Nelda ##imported-begin##Nelda Davis##imported-end##

June 10 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Judy and family, We were so saddened by the death of your precious mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this tough time. "I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord."Shalom,Jan and Roger##imported-begin##Jan and Roger Spann##imported-end##

June 9 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane Jerry Judy,I know how much you will miss your mother.A Mothers love can not be replaced.Sorry for your loss.Mary Davis##imported-begin##mary davis##imported-end##

June 9 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Joyce Busby Dorsey##imported-end##

June 9 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

May God bless you and be with you during this special time.##imported-begin##Loyce Dorsey Radford##imported-end##

June 9 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

So,sorry for your loss.May The Lord Bless you with strength, love and courage, during this time of the loss, of your sweet mother.What a wonderful friend, and neighbor she was to us..God Bless Your Family##imported-begin##Dianna & David Kelley##imported-end##

June 9 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Velma by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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