



# Lenora Beck

NOV 19, 1950 - MAR 12, 2015



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FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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**L**enora Frances Headley Beck passed away on March 12, 2015 in Longview, Texas at Good Shepard Medical Center after a courageous battle against cancer. She is survived by her husband Dave Beck Sr, her mother Bess Headley, her brother Peter Headley and his wife Trish, her sister Calista Headley Bernabe and her husband Henri, her nephews Matthew Headley, Henry Bernabe and Louis Bernabe, her niece Michelle Headley Pryor and her husband Stephen, her great-nephews Jake and Shep Pryor and her great-niece Eliza Pryor. Lenora was preceded in death by her father Dr. Frank S. Headley in 1995. She leaves behind numerous cousins living in many different states.

Lenora was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi on November 19, 1950. She graduated from Port Gibson High School in 1968. In 1972 she earned her Bachelor of Elementary Education degree from Mississippi University for Women and began teaching in the Harrison County Schools.

Lenora chose to leave teaching for a career in the United States Army in 1975. She was at Fort McClellan, Alabama, then Fort Lee Virginia, becoming an Instructor at Quartermaster School until 1979. She then spent 3 years in Okinawa, Japan as Commander, Headquarter Detachment, U.S. Army Garrison. During this time Lenora obtained a Masters of Education from the University of Maryland Far East Division of Okinawa, graduating in 1982.

From 1982 until 1986 Lenora returned to the United States at Fort Polk, Louisiana as a Supply and Services Officer. In 1986 she mastered the German language at Presidio of Monterey in Monterey, California. For the following three years she returned to Europe as a Supply Officer at Maastricht, The Netherlands, and then spent one year in the position of Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1990 to 1993 Lenora was a Supply Officer at Fort Hood Texas and from 1993 to 1996 she was a Supply officer at the Defense Electronics Supply Center in Dayton,



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Ohio.

Lenora retired from her exemplary career in the US Army in 1996 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Lenora began working at BorgWarner as Administrative Assistant to the Plant Manager in Longview in 1996 and continued until her retirement in 2008.

A small immediate family memorial will be held at a later date. Please do not send flowers. For those who wish to donate in Lenora's name, we suggest her favorite charity – Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee

[www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)



**Louis Bernabé** posted:

Lenora was a great aunt and friend; who I dearly miss. In my childhood we would take family trips with my parents and my brother from France to Texas on a yearly basis or every year and a half. It was the chance to see a different environment, a different culture; to live a different way of life. We would travel all the way to Longview, Texas; to see my Memaw Bessie May; to see my aunt Lenora. My uncle Peter and his family would often join us as well; so that we'd get to all see each other; visit and enjoy time together. That ritual went on many years; and had many recurrent highlights. We always went to Dudley's as a family to satisfy my parent's craving for Gumbo. We always went to Walmart to witness how drastically different American culture can be. In the earlier years; we went to Blockbuster to rent out DVD's and watch them as a family. It's still one of my most cherished memories. We played basketball with my brother; rode bikes; carried with us little carts full of toys. We would ride golf carts for fun around Memaw and Lenora's property and my brother would sometimes go golfing with Lenora's husband Dave. We watched TV in Memaw's favorite chair and would often have the same meals ever year. My brother and I were fascinated by the difference in wildlife in Texas: armadillos; fire ants; killer bees; skunks and eagles were all novel and exciting animals. One year; my parents brought my brother along to Austin; the city they first met in; so that he could get a medical examination and so that they could visit the city. For a couple of weeks; I was alone with Memaw, Lenora and Dave. We went to many museums in Kilgore, in Longview and surrounding areas. I was surprised by how many cultural events there were in the area, despite how much on the country-side Longview is. Lenora brought me to science and history museums; to lawnmower races; to a gun festival; to a blacksmithing event... those may seem very rural events but they marked my memory. So much so that I decided to record them in a journal at the time; with pictures, souvenirs, tickets and recollections of the events. It was a wonderful holiday. Lenora was a very meticulous, bright and crafty person. She would always propose events and help organize them. She loved creating and crafting new items. We created special games similar to the horseshoe game; we organized Easter games for Peter's grandchildren; we cooked; worked on boats and cars which Lenora and Dave would buy from their military pension. It was very fun to work like a mechanic on those vehicles. We painted special garden features for my grandmother; which frogs would hide or even live in. We helped my Memaw with her garden; digging out holes for her new plants. My Memaw always loved gardening and kept with that passion well into her old age and even after losing much of her sight. It was always very peaceful to wake up very early in the morning due to jet-lag; to walk out in the fresh air of a central Texas morning; with hummingbirds feeding off the birdhouse and to rest in a rocking chair while listening to the frogs and birds singing. Despite her great career in the army, Lenora was a very humble person and seldom talked about her achievements. She was passionate about helping animals in distress; especially dogs but also cats and animals in general; especially those that seemed mistreated. She could have very silly moments and we always had great laughs every time we reunited. She always made fun of my accent and couldn't always understand me because at the time I had a much stronger French accent and my English wasn't quite as evolved. I loved her and I miss those days very much. It seems to me she lived a great life; with those she loved and the way she intended to live her life. She was strong and brave through her illness and showed very few regrets. I'm glad and thankful I got to know her and have those days as a family with her. - Louis Bernabé



# Tribute Wall

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June 3 at 8:56 PM



**Sharon York** posted:

I met Lenora at line class at Green St. Recreation Center. She became an instructor and was very good - everyone loved her. She was greatly missed when she could no longer dance with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. I know Lenora is in Heaven dancing. Sharon York

March 21 at 3:24 PM



**Martha Mckinley** posted:

We are sad for the loss of Lenora, she is so kind and thoughtful of others. She and Dave were our neighbors for many years. She always asked about Jim and his health condition. And, she always asked about our puppers! We will miss her sweet smile and personality. Praying for all the family. Jim & Martha McKinley

March 16 at 4:47 PM



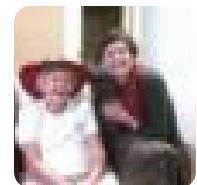
**Alpine House, Longview Texas** posted:

From the entire staff of Alpine House of Longview, we send our deepest condolences to all of the family and friends of Lanora. The heavens have gained another beautiful star!

March 16 at 5:28 AM



**Calista Headley Bernabe** shared an album called **New Album Name**.



March 15 at 9:48 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Beck family.



March 13 at 4:43 PM



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**Joe & Joan Mcdonald** sent a Pink Tribute Spray to the Beck family.



March 13 at 4:24 PM



## Media

**Lenora Beck**

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**Calista Headley Bernabe** shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

March 15 at 9:48 PM



Lenora with her mother Bess Headley



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

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



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