



## Catherine Ann (Bell) Thedford

March 9, 1934 - June 7, 2016

Rusk, Texas — Catherine Ann Thedford, maiden name Bell, a long-time resident of the Rusk, passed away Tuesday the 7th of June at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas, following a brief illness.

Born on March 9th, 1934, to Charlie (Dick) Bell and Grace Ross Bell, Catherine was delivered at home by Dr. T. H. Cobble. She attended Bulah Schools until she entered Rusk High School, where she excelled in basketball, art and was voted “Most Beautiful” by her graduating class of 1953. She worked at Chapman’s Pharmacy as a clerk and soda jerk. At Rusk High School she met Edwin A. Thedford, and they married after her graduation in 1953 at First Baptist, Rusk and remained married until his death in 1986.

As a married couple they spent many years in Houston, Texas, where Catherine was a phone operator for Bell Telephone, until their three children were born and she chose to stay at home for several years. Edwin and Catherine returned to Rusk, Texas in 1967 to raise their children and she remained in Rusk for the remainder of her life, working at the Matthew-Miller Department Store for 12 years and later retiring from Rusk State Hospital as a Service Tech.

Catherine was a very active volunteer in her home town of Rusk. She attended, First Baptist Church, and provided food for the Nursing Home Luncheons served monthly to residents of local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She was a member of the Sardis Seekers Women’s Bible

Study group and completed many community services projects with the group, volunteered at The Good Samaritan and was a Pink Lady for the local hospital.

Catherine loved nothing more than spending time with her sister, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends who she loved dearly and always remembered with “goodie bags” of their favorite little snacks, toys and necessities. She was known as “Mom”, “Udder Mudder”, “MiMi”, “Aunt Cat”, “Grandma Mrs. Thedford” and “Sister” by the countless people that she loved and those whose lives she touched. She was a breast cancer survivor and truly brought a warm glow, encouragement and a quiet comforting smile wherever she went.

Catherine is survived by her sister Wanda Choate of Rusk, a sister-in-law Bernadine Dawson of Jacksonville, a brother-in-law Jack Robison of Springfield, Missouri, a daughter Patricia McDuff and her Husband Mike of Waco, son David Thedford and his wife Vanessa of Jacksonville, daughter DeAnne Pearson and her husband Steve of Austin. She is also survived by grandchildren, Kayla King of Hewitt, Amanda Stanaland and her husband Christopher of Nacogdoches, Grant Thedford and his wife Brittany of Rusk, Andrea Morris and her husband Dewayne of Gallatin, and Chris and Haley Pearson of Austin. Catherine also had three great grandchildren, Kade, Lily and Corbin Stanaland of Nacogdoches. She will also be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Catherine in death by her husband, her parents, a nephew, Kelly Bryan Choate, brother- in-law, Donald Dawson; and sister-in-law, Eva Wynell Robison.

Pallbearers will include Robert Choate, T.J. Choate, Dewayne Morris, Sam Bell, Kenny Birdwell and Edward Starling. Honorary pallbearers will be grandsons Grant Thedford and Chris Pearson and greatgrandsons, Corbin and Kade Stanaland, also Charlie Robison, Bill Cromer and Larry Sinclair. Visitation will be held at Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home 221 W. Fifth Street, Rusk, TX 75785 from 6 PM- 8 PM on Friday, June 10th, 2016. Funeral

Services will be held at First Baptist Church of Rusk at 372 East 4th Street with Rev. Don Copeland and Rev. Rodney McDuff officiating at 1 PM Saturday, June 11th, 2016.

Burial will be following the services at Sardis-Edgefield Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be made to the following: Sardis-Edgefield Preservation Fund 8217 FM 1857, Rusk, TX 75785, Sardis Seekers Women's Bible Study Group Community Projects Ministry C/O Lynn Stanley 9771 FM 1857, Rusk, TX 75785, First Baptist Church Rusk, Texas, Nursing Home Luncheon Fund, 372 East 4th Street Rusk, Texas 75785.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home  
221 5th Street  
Rusk, TX 75785  
(903) 683-2222  
info@wallacethompson.com

## Service

JUN 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
372 E. 4th Street  
Rusk, Texas 75785  
(903) 683-5494

# Tribute Wall



“ *Catherine Ann (Bell) Thedford*

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October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ A Tribute to Mom’s Love

*Mom’s love came with goodie bags,  
Filled with some of our favorite little things that she collected  
throughout the year,  
And tucked inside was a treat and something in your favorite color,  
which she remembered, always, and I mean always.*

*Mom’s love came with the joys,  
Of sitting through hundreds of recitals, games, meets, plays,  
Birthday parties, fitting room marathons and long phone calls filled  
with ordinary news, tears and laughter.*

*Mom’s love came with genuine patience,  
For those she worked with, worked for, served and befriended,  
But especially for her family who she loved, as she would say with a  
smile, “warts and all”.*

*Mom’s love came with requests for her recipes for vanilla ice cream,  
butter milk pie, meatloaf and children,  
To which she would reply:  
First, you have to start with what you have on hand and do the best  
you can, then, expect that it will turn out just right,  
Stir it up, give it all the time needed and pray that it does turn out.  
The rest is up to God.*

*Mom’s love came with great advice, like:  
Bring flowers to the living, and never forget your lipstick, preferably  
Coffee Bean by Revlon, # 300.  
Take a few close-ups of the people’s faces, no matter where you are  
or what the event, you have to be able to see into another person’s  
eyes, it is the only way to see who they really are and what they are  
up to.  
Give your house a lick and a promise, then go live a little, the dust  
bunnies will be there tomorrow.  
You will never meet someone riding around the courthouse square*

*after midnight that you would proud to bring home to your parents, little on, the type of person you would want to spend the rest of your life with, so you might as well come home on time before curfew.*

*Mom's love came to this world in 1934, but it doesn't leave us on this day,  
It is here in our hearts and in our souls when we love others joyfully,  
Any time we value time with friends and family and look into their eyes,  
And most of all, any time that we accept others with patience and love...  
As Mom would have us do, as God would have us do...  
When we love people "warts and all".*

*Thank you Mamma for your love,  
DeAnne*

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**DeAnne Pearson** - June 28, 2016 at 01:06 PM

BH

“ *Brenda H. purchased the Lavender Reflections S pray for the family of Catherine Ann (Bell) Thedford.*



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**Brenda H.** - June 10, 2016 at 10:49 AM



“ *Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Catherine Ann (Bell) Thedford.*



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June 09, 2016 at 07:21 PM



“ *Violets And Butterflies was purchased for the family of Catherine Ann (Bell) Thedford.*

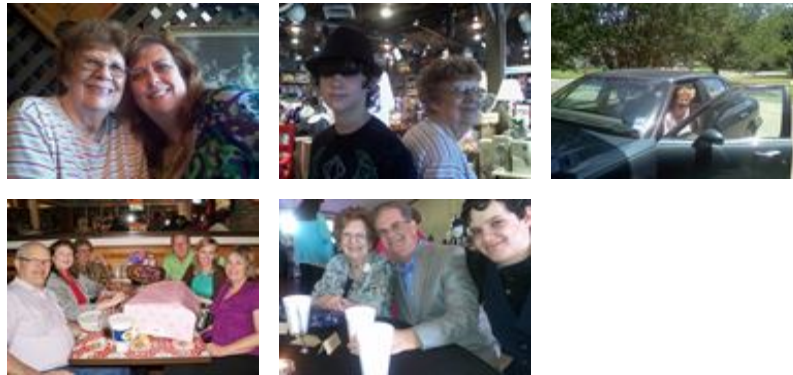


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June 09, 2016 at 07:17 PM



“ *127 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home** - June 09, 2016 at 01:04 PM



“ *Catherine was truly a sweet blessing and loving, caring Friend to me and Allen for these past 30 plus years we had the blessing of knowing and being loved by her! She was always such an encourager to me! I will miss getting to visit with her during our Nursing Home Luncheon and will certainly miss her sweet hugs! Praying for her sweet Family in this difficult time.*

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**Pam Gault** - June 09, 2016 at 10:51 AM

SP

“ *Mimi was more than a relative, she was a treasured friend. I'll miss her dearly.*

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**Steve Pearson** - June 09, 2016 at 10:03 AM

BE

“ *I loved Mrs. Thedford. She was so sweet and a blessing to anyone that met her. Praying for all of her family!*

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**Becky** - June 08, 2016 at 05:50 PM

DM

“ *We are saddened by your loss. Catherine was a wonderful lady. I did not know her well but she made a lasting impression on me as being a very special person. James worked with her at RSH and said she was a pleasure to work with. All who knew and loved her will miss her so much but we will see her again. So happy for that promise.*

*Love and prayers,*

*James, Donna, Chad and Alexis Morris*

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**Donna Morris** - June 08, 2016 at 01:09 PM