



Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill

December 19, 1927 - July 3, 2019

Funeral services for Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill, 91, formerly of Rusk, will be 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 7, 2019 at Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Tommy Mabry officiating. Burial will follow at Salem Cemetery.

Merle passed away from a lengthy illness with her family present on July 3, 2019. She was born December 19, 1927 in Rusk, Texas to the late Joe Ellie and Maude Huggins. She worked all of her life-- 67 years. She loved to cook and was a seamstress. She enjoyed sports, cheering on her Texas Rangers and played on a softball team into her 50s. She loved to travel with one of her cousins, and they went all over the United States and Canada. She loved music and enjoyed dancing.

She attended Beulah Methodist Church while living in Rusk, where she also was married to John Blankenship in 1948. She looked forward to the family and cousin reunions and taking many pictures. She was famous for her pie crusts and won a blue ribbon for her chocolate meringue pie. But the most important thing to her was her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husbands, John Blankenship and Dale Thornhill, grandson, Richard "Chris" Howell, great-grandchildren, Angel Howell, Damien Woodard, brothers, Calvin Huggins, Joe Truman Huggins,

and infant Jessie Huggins, sisters, Lillian Gardiner, Ruby Burchfield, Jewell Eberhardt, Opal Hendrick, and infant Maxine Huggins, brothers-in-law, Alvin Burchfield, Carvel Hendrick, Melvin Eberhardt, Chester Gardiner, and sister-in-law, Ottie Frank Huggins, and travelling cousin, Patsy Harris Key.

She is survived by daughters, Cindy Walker and her husband Kelly of Eastland, Texas, Vicki Howell of Arlington, grandchildren, Stefani Fox and fiancé Vincent Smith of Detroit, TX, Jennifer Howell of Dallas, Lindsay Ramirez of Grapevine, Douglas McGregor of Dallas, great-grandchildren, Kourtney, Kyle, Taylor, Cameron, Makayla, Jayden, Terrance "Layne", Nikkolas, Aiyana, Kiley, Aubree, Brooklynn, Jordyn, Christopher, great-great-grandchildren, Karter, Hailynn, Presley, Kennedy, Payton, sister, Mary Ellen Harris of Houston, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are Kelly Walker, Eddie Harris, Glenn Eberhardt, Randy Burchfield, Jayden Colbert, Cameron Howell, Terrance Ramirez, Kyle Fox, Chris Fox, Mario Ramirez, Anthony Colbert, and Jim Aultman.

Visitation will be 12:00 noon until service time, Sunday, July 7, 2019 at the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill*

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Vicki Howell lit a candle in memory of Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill*



Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:23 PM



I would like to thank God for giving my sister and I the best mother anyone could ever ask for!! She was a beautiful person inside and out and anyone who had the privilege of meeting her would agree. I'm going to miss her so much but I know she's with our Heavenly Father. Love you Mom !! 💔

Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ *Cindy Walker lit a candle in memory of Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill*



Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:39 PM

CW

Mom, I miss you so much already. It still doesn't seem real that you are gone. I know you had a long good life, and couldn't live forever, but I have lost my best friend 💔

Heaven gained another beautiful Angel, and I know you are "whole" again and free from that horrible disease. I can only imagine the family reunion you are having with everyone.

*As Kelly used to say to you at night:
Goodnight, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite; see you later alligator ❤️🌻🌻🌻*

Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:44 PM

SS

“ I have so many good memories of Merle. I grew up with Vic & Cin. She was a beautiful, sweet woman. Her cooking was the Best! Most of all she was a wonderful Mother, devoted to her beautiful girls. ❤️ Sherrie



Sherrie Stanley - July 07, 2019 at 11:00 AM

CW

*Thank you, Sherrie ❤️
Will miss her so much*

Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:33 PM

VH

Thanks Sherrie for your sweet memory of our mom! 💕

Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:12 PM

TH

“ I love you mimi 😊 , & i miss you 😘 . I will always carry you in my heart ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️ and i know it's not a good bye it's a see you later alligator 😔

Taylor Howell - July 06, 2019 at 12:35 PM

CW



Kelly always said "see you later alligator" when he left nursing home. She would say, "after while crocodile"

She had trouble at the end remembering what to say 🤔💔

Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:30 PM

VH

Thanks Taylor. " See you later alligator " was one of her favorite sayings to all of y'all kids.

Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:15 PM

LB

“ Linda and Len Bussey purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill.



Linda and Len Bussey - July 06, 2019 at 10:44 AM

SP

“ Merle was a part of my life as long as I can remember. My brother married her daughter and i always knew she was the nicest lady I would ever meet and also k One of the most beautiful. Soft spoken and warm.

Vicki and Cindy and all of you kids you were so blessed to have this lady in your life. We are sending all of our love and prayers from New Mexico. You are and always will be family. We love you so much. Sbes free flying with angels now ... God bless her.



Sally Howell Pounders - July 06, 2019 at 07:35 AM

CW

*Thank you, Sally ❤️
We will miss her so much!*

Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:36 PM

VH

Thank you for your beautiful memory of our mom. Love you Sally!

Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:17 PM

JW

“*My Aunt Merle (known as "Hay" by most of the family) was a sweetheart and one of my mother's younger sisters. She was a beautiful person, inside and outside, and was much loved by Mother, Daddy, and all of the Burchfield siblings. She will be missed.*

Judy Burchfield Williams - Rusk, Tx.

Judy Williams - July 05, 2019 at 08:37 PM

CW

Thank you, Judy, for the sweet comment ❤️

Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:35 PM

VH

Thank you so much Judy for your memory of our mom.

Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:20 PM

KF

“ *She was the sweetest woman you’d ever have the privilege of meeting,.. unless you were in her kitchen while she was cooking.
Lol*



Kyle Fox - July 05, 2019 at 07:43 PM

TH

lol that’s true

Taylor Howell - July 06, 2019 at 12:44 PM

CW

*That is too funny, Kyle
but so true!! ❤️*

Cindy Walker - July 10, 2019 at 02:37 PM

VH

Yes it is.....Lol

Vicki Howell - July 11, 2019 at 12:09 PM

RW

“ *Robert & Sally Walker purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill.*



Robert & Sally Walker - July 05, 2019 at 03:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill.*



July 05, 2019 at 01:56 PM



“ *Huggins & Scrimger Families, Houston, TX purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Edna Merle Huggins Blankenship Thornhill.*



Huggins & Scrimger Families, Houston, TX - July 05, 2019 at 12:46 PM