



Nelda Gwyn Ellis

December 23, 1938 - November 17, 2020

Nelda Gwyn Ellis was born in Rusk on December 23, 1938. She passed on November 17, 2020 at her home in Jacksonville. She's predeceased by her son Jason Darren Ellis, a sister Dorla Johnston and her parents Oliver Odell and Rachel Farris Dickson Smith.

Her Masters Degree was earned at Texas Tech University at Tyler and her bachelors at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches. She was a phenomenal educator of third grade students for thirty six years. Rice and Owens Elementary in Tyler was blessed to have her. She enjoyed detailed conversations with her niece, Jana almost daily. Her RHS alumni were very special to her and she loved the way they all remained close. Nelda depended on her many friendships which also included church family and former coworkers. She was a strong gifted daughter, sister, mother, aunt and friend.

She will be remembered especially by her niece Jana Birdwell of Brighton, Colorado, nephew Kenny and wife Rhonda Birdwell of Rusk, Great nephews Leslie Birdwell and wife Brittany Birdwell, Kennon and Dillon Birdwell, great nieces Elissa and husband David Robbins, and Kaylee Birdwell, great-great nieces Emily, Addilee, Emery and Avery all of Rusk.

Graveside services will be at Oakland Cemetery on Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 11 AM with Bro. Don Copeland and Pastor David Haines officiating.

Pallbearers are Leslie Birdwell, Kennon Birdwell, Dillon Birdwell, David Robbins, Jade Rogers and Brandon Rossa.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Oakland Cemetery Fund.

There will be no visitation, however, on Friday, November 20, 2020, the Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home will be open from 9am-5pm if you wish to sign the register book.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 21. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Oakland Cemetery

Tribute Wall

GA

“ Mrs. Ellis was my third grade teacher. My name is Gary Allen and I had her as a student in 1963. Mrs. Ellis changed the course of my life and I have always wanted to reach out to her and tell my story of how she changed my life. A book is being written about my life and my artwork and we wanted to pay tribute to her on the positive influence she had on me. She inspired me as a youngster to grow my art talent. But it went beyond that. She inspired me to change from a below average student to a straight A student. It is too bad that I was able to locate information on her after she passed away. Thanks Nelda Ellis for what you did for me.

Gary Allen

San Antonio, Texas

thegaryallen@gmail.com

Gary Allen - September 10, 2024 at 10:11 PM



“ Nelda Gwyn Ellis

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM

DC

“ Dear Family, Nelda was a special friend for many years. Darren and our daughter Karol played together when they were very young. She was a loving and devoted Mother to sweet Darren, and a sweet friend to so many. For several years distance has kept us from seeing one another, but we always stayed in touch. I will miss her, but know she is in a better place with Darren and family.

Sincerely

Dorothy Cooper

Dorothy Cooper - November 20, 2020 at 01:27 PM

PB

“ Wonderful teacher that cared for all her students. She will always be remembered by her Owens family. Praying for her family during this difficult time.

Pat Bickley

Pat Bickley - November 19, 2020 at 05:12 PM

EM

Sad to have missed visitation and service but complication prevented my doing so. Spent time with Nelda at Oakland, Texas Church when growing up. Had been awhile since talking with her. Sympathy for the family.

Eletha Nolley McIntrye - November 22, 2020 at 12:50 AM