



## Mrs. Billie Pepper

March 11, 1945 - May 24, 2026

Funeral services for Mrs. Billie Pepper, 81, of Carthage, Texas, will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2026, at Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. John Gradberg and Rev. Jared Brown officiating. Burial will follow in Odd Fellows Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 6:00–8:00 p.m. Thursday evening at the funeral home.

Mrs. Billie Jo Ritter Pepper was born March 11, 1945, in Center, Texas, and passed away peacefully on May 24, 2026, in Kilgore, Texas.

Billie was the youngest of nine children born to the marriage of Corrie Smiley Ritter and Charlie Ritter. She was raised and attended school in Carthage and Waskom. Billie married James Kenneth “Jim” Ritter, who preceded her in death in 1992.

Mrs. Pepper worked for many years in the grocery business as a produce manager. She was a faithful member of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and found great joy in bringing family together. Billie loved organizing family gatherings, shopping trips, restaurant outings, and special excursions. She was known for remembering birthdays and special occasions with thoughtful cards and messages that made family and friends feel loved and cherished. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Ritter; her parents; brothers, Ralph Ritter, Robert David “Dan” Ritter, Lester Joe Ritter, David Ritter, Emmett Elvin Ritter, and Bernice Maurice “Buck” Ritter; and sisters, Dorothy Faye Ritter and Hannah Charlene Plunk.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving children, Kirby Wayne Pepper and

wife Priscilla of Longview, and Rhonda Kay Pepper Crump and husband Billy of Kilgore; granddaughter, Nicole Rose Pepper of Longview; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of dear friends.

The family extends a special thank you to her devoted caregivers, Sarah, Kimberly, and Tiffany, for their compassionate and excellent care.

Serving as pallbearers will be Kirby Pepper, Billy Crump, Matt Hall, Cody Hall, Kyle Weatherford, John Isaac Gradberg.

# Cemetery Details

## Odd Fellows Cemetery

256 S. Market  
Carthage, TX 75633

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 28.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home  
307 West Wellington Street  
P.O. Box 188  
Carthage, TX 75633  
(903) 693-3816  
info@hawthornfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

**MAY 29.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel  
307 W Wellington St.  
Carthage, Tx

# Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Billie Pepper



Hawthorn Funeral Home - May 26 at 05:31 PM



“ Our love and condolences. HeartsWay Hospice staff.



HeartsWay Hospice - May 26 at 01:28 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Billie Pepper.



May 25 at 09:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Billie Pepper.

May 25 at 09:47 PM

MG

“ You knew you were loved if you knew my aunt. She was a supporter and loved you deeply.

*Mickie Gradberg*

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**Mickie Gradberg** - May 25 at 09:41 PM