



## Mrs. Esther Nell Nail

August 12, 1928 - November 1, 2013

Funeral services for Mrs. Nell Nail, 85, of Tatum, Texas, will be 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 4, 2013, at the Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Tatum Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Family visitation will be 5-7:00 p.m. Sunday night at Hawthorn Funeral Home. Mrs. Nail died November 1, 2013, in Longview, Texas.

Mrs. Esther Nell Downing Nail was born August 12, 1928, in Gary, Texas. She was one of eight children born to the marriage of James Ausburn "J.A." and Gladys Ford Downing. Nell was raised and graduated school in Gary where she met a basketball player named Vilace "Rusty" LaVaughn Nail. They married September 12, 1947, and spent 66 years together before he preceded her in death in August of this year. In her younger years, Nell picked tomatoes and cotton and worked at the Carthage Drug Store, at Suzanne's Fashion Design and Longview Mfg. Co., but focused on her family as a loving homemaker. She and Vilace were active in the Tatum community and were members of the First Baptist Church of Tatum where she taught G.A.'s, Sunday school, and served in the choir. Mrs. Nail was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sisters, Lois Smith, Frances Stephenson, and Margaret Chapman, and brother, James Downing.

Mrs. Nail is survived by her children, Brenda Dartz and husband Boyd of Tatum, Karen Palmer and husband Royce of Kirbyville, and Mark Nail and wife Ailene of Tatum; brother, "Sonny" Henry Ford Downing and wife Juanita Jean of Gary; sisters, Wanda Nail and husband Lovis of Carthage and Janie

Smith of Utah; sister-in-law, Maurine Downing of Houston; brother-in-law, John Chapman of Houston; grandchildren, Matt Cunningham, Nikki Courtney and husband Sean, Derek Nail and wife Amy, Chase Palmer, Lance Palmer, Jordan Nail, Nolan Nail, Susan Seidl and friend Jason Russell, Patricia Cullen and husband Justin, John Summers, eight great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be her grandsons and grandsons-in-law. The family requests memorials be made to Shiners Hospital or The Alzheimer's Association.

# Cemetery Details

**Tatum**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

NOV 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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>

### Service

NOV 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

TE

“ *Toni Mobley Eastman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Nell Nail*



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**Toni Mobley Eastman** - November 04, 2013 at 11:23 AM

GJ

“ *We hold fond and sweet memories of Mrs. Nell from our years of membership there at FBC of Tatum, especially of Nell's devotion of seeing that the sanctuary and musical instruments along with the communion table, was spotless. She so loved her family and church family and that love was returned. For the family, we offer prayers for your loss, and may God bless you all. Our love to you all, Bill & Gloria*

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**gloria jones** - November 03, 2013 at 09:17 PM

TC

“ *Mrs. Nail was a wonderful lady.*

*Tandalyn Carter LVN*

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**tandalyn carter** - November 03, 2013 at 08:50 PM

EM

“ *Elaine Martin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Nell Nail*



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**Elaine Martin** - November 03, 2013 at 08:50 AM

JC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Joy Cory** - November 03, 2013 at 08:34 AM

JC

*This picture was taken at our home in 2010. However, my fondest memories go back to our first trip to Tatum 10 years prior to that time. Phil and I were just thinking about moving to Tatum at that time, we stopped at First Baptist Church on a Saturday morning, and Vilace was the first person we met. Soon after that, we met Nell, also. They were dedicated to God, their family, their church and their community.  
Phil and Joy Cory*

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**Joy Cory** - November 03, 2013 at 12:37 PM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Esther Nell Nail.*



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November 02, 2013 at 05:03 PM