



Mrs. Rita Mae Woods

November 27, 1924 - September 9, 2018

Funeral services and Celebration of Life for Mrs. Rita Mae Kennedy Woods, 93, will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Hawthorn Funeral Home with Dr. Jeffrey Dowdy officiating. Burial will follow in Waldrop Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Visitation will precede the service on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Rita Mae Kennedy Woods was born November 27, 1924, in Camp County, TX. She was the fourth of eleven children born to James Dee and Odessa Reynolds Kennedy. She passed from this life to her Heavenly reward on September 9, 2018.

Rita started school in a 2-room schoolhouse in the community of Hopewell, Franklin County, Texas. In 1936, the family moved to Delta County, then later relocated in Lamar County. She graduated from Midway High School in 1942 as salutatorian of her class and attended Paris Junior College.

In the summer of 1943, Rita moved to Houston where she worked in the machine shop office of Dickson Gun Plant, a division of Hughes Tool Co. The company made heavy artillery gun barrels for use in World War II. She also worked at Houston Oil Field Material Company in Houston and 12 years at Texas Eastman Company in Longview.

On January 26, 1945, Rita met the love of her life. She and Phillip Ray Woods were married six weeks later on March 9, 1945. They made their home in the Brooks Community after Ray was discharged from the Navy. Later they resided in Fairplay where they raised Missouri Fox Trotting Horses and

enjoyed attending horse shows across the area and other states. Ray passed away December 31, 1994, two months before their 50th anniversary.

Rita was a member of Central Baptist Church and the Faith Sunday School class. She loved her Lord and cherished her family. She was an accomplished artist and seamstress.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband, infant daughter Phyllis Rae Woods, siblings Lynn Kennedy, Betty Ruth Gillean, Bernice Kimbrell, Rachel McMahan, Carolyn Sue Spraggins, Ruby Warrick, Gail Frederick and Billie Jean Dinehart.

Left to cherish her memory are a daughter, Kathy Woods Dowdy and husband Rickey of Frisco, TX; granddaughter, Kim Dowdy Hodge and husband Blake of Frisco, TX; grandson, Jeffrey Dowdy and wife Melody of Asheville, NC; great-grandchildren, Keaton Dowdy, Gentry Rose Dowdy, Kennedy Rae Hodge and Hallie Elizabeth Hodge.

Also surviving Mrs. Woods are brothers, Herman Kennedy of Cooper, TX and James D. Kennedy, Jr. and wife Joyce of Terrell, TX; sister-in-law, Patsy Woods Byerly of Gaithersburg, MD; and a host of nephews, nieces and cousins.

Serving as pallbearers will be nephews, Cliff Woods, Phillip Woods, James Byerly, Kenneth Kennedy, Larry Warrick and Ric Cooper. The family requests memorials be made to Central Baptist Church in Carthage or Waldrop Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Waldrop Cemetery

926 FM 1251
Beckville, TX 75631

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 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

SEP **15**. 2:30 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Rita Mae Woods



Hawthorn Funeral Home - September 13, 2018 at 04:58 PM

EC

What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady. I will miss you Aunt Rita.

Elizabeth Cummings - September 13, 2018 at 08:58 PM

CB

“ *My deepest sympathy for the family and friends ms. Woods she will be missed.*

cyndi bell - September 16, 2018 at 06:44 AM

DC

“ We knew Ms. Rita and Mr. Ray in the late 70’s. We were the very end of the FairPlay Water Line across the Rusk Panola Line. Every time the wind blew we were out of water or they would deliberately turn off the pump, thinking lightening may hit it and the entire system would be out! We had many calls and talks and we were very young. But Kathy, your Mother was always so kind to us and helped me understand how things worked in the country. I grew up in the bright lights of the city of Houston. Had married and moved here just one month over my 18th Birthday. I thought David Chapman had brought me to the end of the world, a very dark world! Your Mother helped me in more ways than I can count. I’m sure she is getting crown 👑 this day. Our sincere sympathies to you all.



David & Kathy Chapman - September 15, 2018 at 04:44 PM

MB

“ Our deepest sympathies. Don & Margaret Bates

Margaret & Donald Bates - September 15, 2018 at 09:46 AM

LC

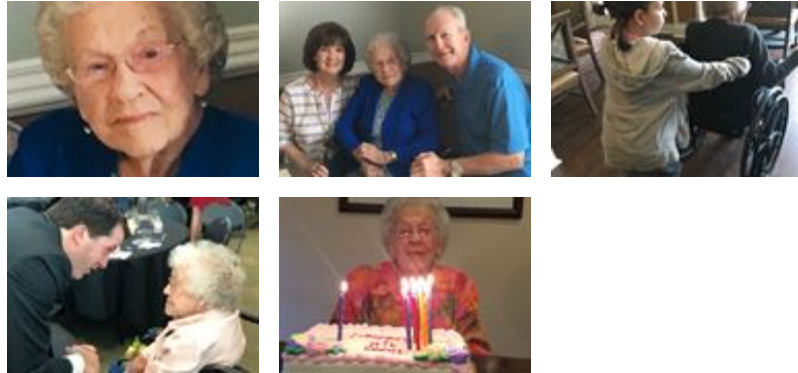
“ Love, Elizabeth & Mark Cummings purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Rita Mae Woods.



Love, Elizabeth & Mark Cummings - September 13, 2018 at 09:41 PM



“ 86 files added to the album Life Tributes



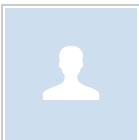
Hawthorn Funeral Home - September 13, 2018 at 03:45 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rita Mae Woods.



September 13, 2018 at 01:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rita Mae Woods.



September 12, 2018 at 08:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rita Mae Woods.*



September 12, 2018 at 04:26 PM



“ *Kathy, Ricky and family. Our love and prayers to you today and in the days to come. She and Ray were always so kind to us. She will be missed! Remember those precious times with her. We cherish your lifelong friendship!*
Our love,
Jerry, Pat, Jeremy, Lance and Emmie Kate Dorman
Isaiah 40:31



Jerry and Pat (Edens) Dorman - September 12, 2018 at 01:16 PM



“ *Kathy and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I always loved Rita. One always knew there was going to. see a smile on that sweet face. She and Ray are celebrating together. I always will remember your parents and mine on Waldrop Annual day, many sweet memories. Love you, Barbara Waldrop Hargraves.*

Barbara Waldrop Hargraves - September 12, 2018 at 08:37 AM



“ *Prayers for your family at this time and days ahead*

Vickie Barker - September 12, 2018 at 07:07 AM

ZH

“ Katherine and I loved Grandma Rita dearly. Although we feel deep loss by her passing and will miss her greatly, we know she has peace being home with the Lord and reunited with her husband. We look forward to seeing her again and are grateful for the way she loved and cared for us. We're praying for comfort and peace for Kathy, Rick, Kim, Jeff, and the rest of her great family.

-Zach and Katherine Hodge

Zach and Katherine Hodge - September 12, 2018 at 12:58 AM

SE

“ Mrs. Woods was always such a kind, lovely lady. And her daughter Kathy is the same. Love to this family in this time of loss.
Susan Edge

Susan Edge - September 11, 2018 at 02:21 PM

JD

“ John & Ann Droptini lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Mae Woods



John & Ann Droptini - September 11, 2018 at 02:08 PM