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Playing By Ear

Tumbleweed Smith



Luann Neely of Marshall says music is her life.

"You know, music does make you smarter. It really does make your brain work better. I still love doing it and will keep on doing it until I can't.'

Luann taught choir to junior high and high school students in Marshall, then re-Tumbleweed Smith tired to travel the world.

"On our first trip, my husband wanted to teach me how to travel light, so we traveled for weeks in Costa Rica with just a back pack. We traveled for about ten years to around 15 different countries, then I returned to Marshall High School and junior high coaching kids as the compete in singing competitions. We have a good thing going."

Many of her students have been in the all-state choir. Luann is not a singer. She plays piano. "I didn't learn. We did not have a piano in my house growing up. I was at a family friend's house who was baby-sitting me while my mother went to do errands. The woman was in the kitchen and I sat down at the piano and played Sentimental Journey. She came in there and asked me if the radio was on. I said no and she asked me if I played that song on the piano. I said yes and she made me play it again. I've been playing ever since. I was barely 3 years old when that happened. I could play anything I could hear. And I still can."

When I visited with Luann she had just returned from a cruise that took her from Lisbon, Portugal to Barcelona, Spain.

"My son had won this cruise. He had donated money to a charity through a raffle and he won this cruise. I was down visiting him in Florida when he told me about this cruise he had won. He said, 'I don't know who I'm going to take with me.' I said well here I stand. He said, 'oh, Mom I didn't even think of you. Of course we can go.' So off we went."

They traveled on the upscale cruise line, Silver Sea. "We had our own suite with our own butler so it was quite something. I never dreamed I would get to experience something like that."

She ended up entertaining passengers.

"My son and I were in one of the lounges having an after dinner drink when a jazz guitarist and singer from Portugal came in to entertain. They were going to be playing a song I knew so I asked if I could play with them. We ended up playing the whole evening. Some of the songs I had never heard before but I was able to follow along with them. They loved it. They said 'where have you been?' It was really fun."

Luann has a master's degree in piano and did learn to read music. She says playing by ear is a gift from God.

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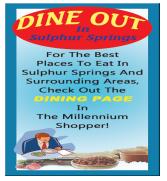
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David "Dob" Dobson

Memorial services for David "Dob" Dobson, 64, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at Spence Chapel First Baptist Church with Dr. Charles Wade officiating. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. preceding the funeral services.

David died on Friday, April 28, 2023, in Tyler, TX. He was born June 23, 1958, in Durant, OK, the son of James Harvey and Doris Hidlebaugh Dobson. He is survived by his wife Michelle, daughter Dashea Mowat and husband Dylan, son Asa Dobson and Marci Pine, daughter Morgan Y'Barbo and husband Matt, and son Rance Bennett, grandsons Logan and Lincoln, mother Doris Dobson, sister Dana Hudson and husband Kenny, sister Shelley Grimes and husband Wendell, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son Dylan Dobson and his father James Harvey "Jim" Dobson.



Belinda Martin

Funeral service for Belinda Martin, age 73 of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 3:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Bro Danny Ballard officiating. Interment will be held at Posey Cemetery with Danny Ray Sowell, Lee Easley, Wade Howard, Matthew Cunningham, and Glenn Kizer serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Belinda passed away on May 13, 2023 at Christus Mother Frances, Sulphur Springs.

Belinda was born on June 9, 1949 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Troy Gay and Lula Bell (Petrea) Ballard. She married Douglas Martin on March 31, 1971 in Winfield, Texas. Belinda was the owner of Martin Optical. She was a member of the North Hopkins ISD School Board. Belinda was a member of the First Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Rhonda Rogers and husband, Jason; son, Chad Martin and wife, Amanda; stepsons, Greg Martin and wife, Allison, Brad Martin and wife, Kristen; fourteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; brother, Danny Ballard, and sister Debra Ball.

Belinda was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Bobby Ramsey; granddaughter, Marjorie Ramsey; great grandson, Tyler Edwards; sister, Donna Edwards, and brothers, Billy Sharp and Ronnie Sharp. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Mae Dean Epting Sims

Mrs. Mae Dean Epting Sims was born on March 31, 1942, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to the parentage of Jerry Preston Odell and Jessie Mae (Lewis) Epting. She was the fourth of seven children. Sis. Sims gracefully gained her wings and reunited with her heavenly family on Thursday, May 11, 2023, in the comfort of her home. She was 81 years old and a beautiful person inside and out. She was known as "Grandmother" to many. Her stunning smile would light up any room. She cared so deeply for the people around her. She was so kind and made an impact on many lives. Mae was a magnificent cook. She was famous for dishes such as chicken and dumplings and homemade pies. She will forever be missed.

Sis. Sims gave her life to the Lord at an early age. She united with Cherry Grove Baptist Church where she served faithfully on the Mission and Usher Boards. As an usher, she greeted everyone at the door with her beautiful smile of welcome. She was a true servant who worked faithfully until her health failed, and she was unable to continue her calling.

She attended Douglas High School where she played basketball. Sis Sims loved sports, especially baseball. She and her twin sister, Faye are avid Rangers fans. They spent many evenings together cheering on the Rangers. She was a sports mom who

was always at her daughters' sporting events from softball games at very early ages to volleyball, basketball, and track meets throughout high school and college. Her dedication did not stop there as she continued to rally around her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren who continued the sporting legacy of the family.

Sis Sims entered the workforce at a young age. She worked for the following companies: Pratt's Packing, H.D. Lee, Rockwell International, and lastly, Hopkins County Memorial Hospital in the Dietary Department, from which she retired after more than 27 years of service. She was a very hard worker and the epitome of a dedicated, devoted, and loyal employee which are the same values she instilled in her daughters.

On January 2, 1980, she married Bobby Joe Sims, who proceeds her in death. Mae is also preceded in death by her parents Preston and Jessie

Epting, and her sister Pearlie Neal.

She was a loving mother who leaves four generations to cherish her memories: Three daughters Doris Jeanette Palmer, Monica Michelle Goodson, Sheila Reshon Sims. Five grandchildren: Tameshia Palmer, Shayla Crawford, Kwaesi (Amber) Palmer, Adarius (Amber) Palmer, and Ian Scott. Great-grandchildren: Kwadarius "Sharard" Timmons, Kwasia Timmons, Dajia Mcbrayer, Branden Smith Jr., Azia Palmer, Kaesi Palmer, McKenzie Palmer, Berko Palmer, Asia Garner, Camari Garner, Jordan Garner, and Marley Jones. Great-great grandchildren: Jamarion "Duece" Timmons, Breea Clayton, Rylee Ivery, Brooklyn Timmons, Elaina Timmons, Dakaree Younger, and Iyanna Mae Timmons.

She is survived by siblings Walter Epting, her twin sister, Faye Moore, Narene Vaden, Joyce (Dave) Young, Darial (Cheryle) Epting. Sister-in-laws: Peggy White, Arlene Williams, and brother-in-law, Carter Sims. She also leaves behind to cherish her memory a host of family and friends including

a very special friend Mrs. Francis Dial.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Cherry Grove Baptist Church. Interment will follow at North Caney Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

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