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Tumbleweed Smith At age fourteen, while in the eighth grade, he got a job as janitor at the bank in Melvin. "By the ninth grade I had a key to the bank and the combination to the vault. I did that for four years at a dollar a day."

When he graduated from high school he had no interest in college. He just wanted to be a banker. He borrowed 175 dollars from the bank, bought a car, left town and found a job at a bank in Houston.

"I was there three years. They were real good to me in Houston. They let me do everything in the bank by the time I was twenty-one."

That same year, when he was 21, he went to Port Lavaca where a new bank was getting organized.

"I hired all the employees, bought all the equipment and stayed at that bank until I was forty three. I became president of that bank and was president for a good long while."

At age forty-three, a close friend his same age had a heart attack. He didn't want that to happen to him. So he left the banking business.

"I had always been renting land, running cows. I started buying and selling land and putting in subdivisions. Over the years I've had thirty-eight farms and ranches and sixteen subdivisions in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado."

Curtis has three children and gave each one a ranch. "So I'm working for them now."

While he was living in Lubbock and Santa Fe he was on his way to Wimberley when he went through Brady and saw a house he liked. It had a for sale sign in the yard. He called a realtor and within an hour the house was his.

"I like it very well. I enjoy it. It covers a whole block. It has ornamental iron fences all around it, two guesthouses and a large meal building. I was born in the hospital here in Brady now after seeing the world and doing everything I'm back within five blocks from where I was born. That's what you call getting back to your roots."

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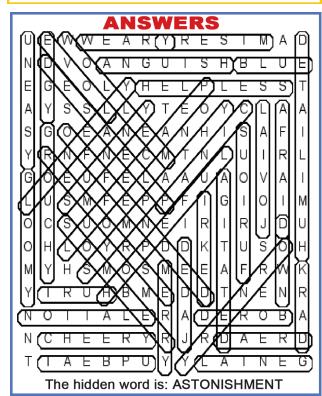
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Jane Fave Willis

Jane Faye Willis, 81, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away on May 12, 2024. Jane was formerly of McKinney, Texas where she spent her childhood and most of her adult life. She moved to Sulphur Springs in 2015 to be close to her family. She was fondly referred to as Aunt Jane by her nieces, nephews, and other special family members.

Jane was a caretaker to many in her lifetime. She took care of her parents and many elderly friends and relatives. She was always ready to take them out to eat at their favorite restaurants. After moving to Sulphur Springs, she befriended neighbor ladies and Sunday School friends. She enjoyed meeting for lunches and dinners in her favorite restaurants. She is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Rita Willis of Van Alstyne, Texas, and Jimmy and Karen Willis of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Jane is also survived by nieces, nephews and spouses: BJ and Kelly Willis, Kim Willis Edwards, Holly and Chad Folmar, and Brad and Holly Willis. Her great-nieces Loryn Willis Meyer, Lindsay Willis, Chloe Willis, and Carson Folmar McCubbin, and great-nephews, Ty Crump, Toby Crump, Zach Willis, and Cole Willis also survive. She also has three great-great nieces Jade Crump, Charlie Crump, and Rhynlee Meyer.

She leaves behind a special best friend, Patricia Morgan, known as Ms. Pat to the family and as "Patricia" to Jane. She

began as a caretaker after a hospital stay for Jane and soon became a best friend.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents, Frieda (Holman) and Jim Alfred Willis; her grandparents, AJ and Bessie Willis and Fred and Merle Holman; and her great-nephew, Carson Bradley Hicks.

Jane attended McKinney schools and graduated from McKinney High School in 1961. She was a member of Forest Grove Christian Church in Fairview, Texas, and after moving to Sulphur Springs she attended the First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs. She worked at Neiman Marcus, Texas Instruments, and Honeywell in Dallas, Texas. Jane enjoyed riding and showing horses in her early years, spending time driving her dad to look at cattle and horses, and later loved to watch her great-nephews and nieces in sporting events and youth rodeos. She loved to drive the countryside on a pretty day.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas, at 3:00 p.m. with her church friend, Gary Rodenbaugh, officiating. Visitation will be held at 2:30 p.m. prior to the service. She will be laid to rest by her loving parents. Pallbearers will be BJ Willis, Brad Willis, Chad Folmar, Ty Crump, Toby Crump, Zach Willis, and Cole Willis.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Carson Hicks Memorial Scholarship Fund at City National Bank, P.O. Box 495, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

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### Welcome Gene Barnett

Welcome Gene Barnett, age 91, passed away on May 10, 2024, at his home in Saltillo, TX. Gene was born July 12, 1932, in New Hope, TX. He was the son of Welcome Earl Barnett and Ollie (Rice) Barnett.

Following graduation from Saltillo High School in 1953, Gene married Imogene (White) Barnett. They were married for 70 years. Gene joined the Dallas Police Department in 1956. He was the last living Dallas Police officer to have witnessed President John F. Kennedy's assassination. In 1965, he joined the Department of Public Safety and retired in 1992 as an Honorary Texas Ranger. Gene's hobbies included singing with gospel groups including the Kingsmen and Saintsmen. He has been a Mason since 1954. He also enjoyed ranching and visiting with family and friends.

Gene is survived by his wife, Imogene, and children; Gary Barnett (Stephanie), Terry Williams (Rick), Cary Barnett (Kathy), and Jerry Barnett (Paula). Grandchildren; Brandon Barnett (Lauren), Brady Barnett (Lanese), Lance Williams

(Kristen), Lindsay McCoy (Jeff), Justin Barnett (Macy), Serenity Barnett, Preston Mays, Blake Barnett (Kaitlyn), Katie Barnett, and Sadie Barnett. Great-grandchildren; Beckham, Sloan, Talia, Jolie, Landri, Reese, Carter, and Leighton.

A visitation was held from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 13, 2024, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The funeral was a private family graveside service on Tuesday.



### Kara Michelle Hampton

It is with immense sorrow and infinite love that we mourn the loss of Kara Michelle Hampton of Sulphur Springs, Texas, on March 21, 2024, at the age of 40 years.

Kara is survived by her cherished sons, Isaiah Miguel Orletti of Poughkeepsie, New York, and Kodi Lee Liggins of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. In 2003, Kara welcomed her oldest son and first gift from God, Isaiah Orletti. Making him a big brother, she welcomed her second special gift, Kodi Liggins, in 2015. Kara considered Isaiah and Kodi her most significant accomplishments in life. She shared with everyone she met how proud she was of her boys; their love was her greatest joy. Additionally, Kara is survived by her parents, Wesley Allen Hampton and Angela Collier Hampton of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and Terry A. Fitch of Arkansas; siblings Haleigh Hill and husband Josh of Sulphur Springs, Chelsea Hampton of

Sulphur Springs, Wesley Micah Hampton of Dallas, Texas, Wesley Jordan Hampton and wife Jenny of Sulphur Springs, and Josh Wright of Palm Coast, Florida. Kara is also survived by her treasured grandmothers, Martha Collier of Texarkana, Texas, and Ora Shelton Boardman of Missouri City, Texas; nephews and nieces Caleb, Ellise, Aubrielle, Emily, Elias, Evie, and Josiah. All of whom treasured her life with immeasurable love.

Kara is preceded in death by her grandparents Wesley Hampton and Ouida Reed of Shreveport, Louisiana; Craig Boardman of College Station, Texas; great grandparents Anita and Coy Webb of Dumas, Arkansas.

Kara was born in Monticello, Arkansas, on May 27, 1983, with her name meaning "beloved friend." She grew up in Sulphur Springs, Texas, and lived briefly during her adolescent years in Lafayette, Louisiana. Kara was well-traveled, living in Poughkeepsie, NY, Louisiana, and across Texas, including Sugar Land and Arlington. Kara gave her all to those she loved and spread her smile to countless. In her immensely short time on this side of heaven, Kara showed her family the value of a healing hug and the power of unconditional love.

A Memorial Service honoring Kara's life and beautiful soul will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Aguilar Funeral Services Chapel. The family requests attendees to wear pink or emerald (green), in honor of the color Kara bestowed into all of our lives.



### Nell Tanton

A graveside service for Nell Tanton, age 95, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024 at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Sulphur Springs, TX. Mrs. Tanton passed away at Hopkins Court on Friday, May 10, 2024.

Claudia Nell Tanton was born on December 3, 1928 in Dike, TX to Nolan and Marcella (Smith) Terrell. She married N.W. (Ned) Tanton in Hopkins County on July 25, 1945. They were happily married for over 59 years, until his passing in 2004. She worked in retail/sales at Gibson's and K-Mart for many years. Nell accepted the Lord as her savior on April 13, 1959 and was a devoted Christian woman.

Nell is survived by her children, Linda Gant and her husband Ernest, Carolyn Barrett, Paul Tanton and his wife Anita; eleven grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nolan and Marcella Terrell; husband, Ned Tanton; son, Troy Tanton; and son-in-law, Gene Barrett.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com

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