



Dorinda Ward Van Burkleo

December 19, 2019

Dorinda Ward Van Burkleo, a long time resident of McAllen, TX died peacefully at her home on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Born in a farming community outside of Gainesville TX, Dorinda received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from the University of North Texas in 1950. A child of the depression and WWII, Dorinda was intelligent, independent and strong willed both in mind and body. She left north Texas on her own at 20 to teach school in the Rio Grande Valley. She called the Valley home for the rest of her life. It was here where she met her husband of 58 years and raised her children. She was a life long member of St. Mark United Methodist Church in McAllen where she served on multiple boards and committees.

Dorinda taught school for more than 35 years, influencing countless students and sharing her love for sewing and home skills. She retired from teaching in 1988.

In retirement, Dorinda continued her passion for sewing and quilting. She created heirloom quilts for each of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The quilts and her loving memory will be treasured.

Dorinda is preceded in death by the love of her life, her husband James Van Burkleo, Sr., her son Bill Van Burkleo, and infant daughter Linda Kay Van Burkleo, her parents Leta and Ira Ward, and brothers Herman and William Ward.

She is survived by her son Terry Van Burkleo (Patti) of McAllen, TX, daughter

Dee Ann Payne (Marshall) of Dallas, TX, son Pat Van Burkleo (Andrea) of Baton Rouge, LA. She is also survived by her 10 grandchildren who brought great joy and love to her life, Brian Van Burkleo (Liz) of Houston, TX, Brittany Flory (Nick) of San Antonio, TX, Brandon Van Burkleo of Los Angeles, CA. Lauren Englert (K.P.) of San Francisco, CA Benton Payne (Andrea) of Dallas, TX, William Payne of Los Angeles, CA, Laura Payne, Patrick Van Burkleo, and Amy Van Burkleo all of Dallas, TX and Will Van Burkleo of Austin, TX along with 6 great-grandchildren.

The family gratefully thanks all the caretakers provided by Health Care Unlimited along with Tencha Irlas, Lucy Mann, Myra Myers; and especially Lorena Lopez who has been with the family for 30 years.

In lieu of flowers contributions the family requests contributions to the Vannie Cook Children's Clinic, 101 West Expressway 83, McAllen, TX 78503 or St Mark United Methodist Church, 301 Pecan Blvd, McAllen, TX 78501.

Previous Events

Remembrance Gathering

DEC 27. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

McAllen Country Club
615 Witchita Ave.
McAllen, TX 78501

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorinda Ward Van Burkleo*

October 08, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Dorinda Ward Van Burkleo*

November 29, 2022 at 06:40 AM



“ *I know Mrs. Van Burkleo only through her son Pat. Through him i know that she was a dynamic caring person who was loved by her family and those who were blessed to know her. For her family I pray for peace and the comfort of many cherished memories.*
John McDermott

John McDermott - December 23, 2019 at 12:31 PM



*If my memory is correct she was my bachelor living teacher in high school she was wonderful as all my teachers were easy to talk to ❤️🙏
❤️🙏 Didn't she have a daughter DeAnn ??*

jeff henry - December 26, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ *I will always remeber Mrs Van B and now miss her. What a lovely soul. She combined kindness with strength and was so classy. I admired her so much. I could always call and come over to get some advice on my sewing or cooking projects. I treasure what she said to me and how she treated me.*

Marilyn Lima - December 22, 2019 at 10:31 PM

JR

“ Thank You for finishing the Quilt my wife started for our Granddaughter. I was blessed that you stepped in and finished her final project

Jack Radde - December 22, 2019 at 08:12 PM

AP

“ Mrs Van Burkleo you and your husband will always hold a special place in my heart. I am glad I was able to be his nurse and meet such wonderful people. You were a kind person. May you RIP now and be joined again with Mr Van Burkleo. Annette Perez💜

Annette Perez - December 22, 2019 at 07:02 PM

SL

“ If have many wonderful memories of Mrs VB and the whole family as for many years I was in and out of the Van Burkleo house more than my own. But one of the most memorable experiences for me was when Pat, DeeAnn, Mrs VB and I took a road trip to Gainesville to paint and do a bit of fixing up at Dorinda's mother's home. It was a week of laughs and hard work and the results were great and the appreciation from Grandma Ward was worth so much to all of us. Dorinda you were at times like a 2nd mom to me. Thank you for being part of my life. Sylvana

Sylvana Lorenz - December 22, 2019 at 05:54 PM

EE

“ Thank you Ms. Dorinda for your kindness and allowing me to sew quilts with you. You will be a beautiful part of my life forever.
Love,
Elizabeth



Elizabeth Egbert - December 21, 2019 at 10:27 AM

GM

Please accept my Condolences, thoughts and Prayers on the loss of your Dear Mother (Terry, and all of the Van Burkleo Family). A very nice and Beautiful Lady that I had the pleasure of knowing through God's gift in Her son and our wonderful friendship in each other.

I truly share in sadness because of the recent loss of my Mom. May God receive Her in His everlasting eternal flame in Heaven

Gilbert Montalvo - December 22, 2019 at 01:41 PM

LT

Such a wonderful lady that will always be remembered. 🙏🏻🙏🏻

Linda Trevino - December 22, 2019 at 04:13 PM

IH

sending you a note just to say you are in my heart and thoughts today. MAY YOUR MEMORIES GIVE YOU COMFORT AND BRING YOU PEACE . LOVE LIVES ON IRENE HYATT

irene hyatt - December 23, 2019 at 08:18 PM