



Mary Louise Prater

May 15, 2018

Louise Prater, long-time former resident of McAllen, passed away on Tuesday, May 15, at Autumn Leaves On White Rock Retirement Home in Dallas, at the age of 99. Born Mary Louise Alexander on August 18, 1918, in Teague, Texas, she was the first daughter of Louis Emile Alexander and Goldie Undine Hardy. She grew up in Teague and along the Missouri Pacific Railway between Houston and Dallas, as her father was foreman of the MP crew that kept the rail line in repair. Following her father's death from cancer in 1929, Louise went to live and attend school at Masonic Home in Ft. Worth. She graduated from Masonic Home in 1935 and briefly attended business school. In 1936, she met and married Woodrow Wilson Prater of Dawson, Texas. They moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 1937 and lived in San Benito and La Feria while Wilson worked as a Caterpillar operator for the IBWC, building levees along the Rio Grande. With the beginning of WW2, she moved around the US with Wilson during his service in the Navy's Seabees. She became a secretary at Ellington AFB, Houston, while Wilson served overseas in the Pacific. Following the war, they lived in Monte Alto and out in the country northwest of Mission as Wilson pursued his dream of farming. Eventually, in 1950, they built a home in McAllen, with Wilson farming near Los Ebaños, and they started a family. In the late 1950s, Louise began working part-time for McAllen ISD's Business Office. By the beginning of the 1960s, she was full-time secretary and district purchasing agent for the MISD business office, working for many years with Asst. Superintendent Woody Gearhart. She retired from

education in the 1980s, following Wilson's death, and devoted her time to many clubs in the area. She was a member and an officer of the McAllen Medical Center's Hospital Volunteers, Pan American Round Table, Sorosis Professional Women's Club, and Order of the Eastern Star. As well, while working for MISD, she was an active member of Texas Educational Secretaries Association. Both she and Wilson were members of First Presbyterian Church, McAllen, too. In 2007, Louise moved to Dallas to live in a retirement home setting and became an active and much-loved member of Grace United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and all of her brothers (Louis, Jack, Hardy, and Mike Alexander) and her sister Jimmie Ruth Alexander Angel. She is survived by her children, Larry Prater of McAllen and Miranda Prater of Dallas, and their spouses; her grandchildren, Justin Prater of Austin and Janna Diaz of McAllen, and their spouses; and six great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to Grace United Methodist Church, Capital Campaign, 4105 Junius St., Dallas, TX 75246. Visitation will be held from 6-8 pm Monday, May 21, 2018. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Graveside Service

MAY **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Valley Memorial Gardens
3605 N Taylor Rd
Mission, TX 78501

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Louise Prater*

October 08, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Mary Louise Prater*

November 29, 2022 at 06:40 AM



“ *May God hold Aunt Louise Prater in his Arms Forever.*
Pat Alexander



Pat Alexander - May 28, 2018 at 01:24 PM



Thank you, Pat, God's blessings to you and your family. Miranda Prater

Miranda Prater - June 13, 2018 at 02:19 PM



Thank you, Pat. God's blessings to you and your family. Miranda Prater

Miranda Prater - June 13, 2018 at 02:33 PM

PR

“ Pamela McGee Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Prater



Pamela McGee Rogers - May 23, 2018 at 07:52 PM

MP

Thank you, Pam. ❤️

Miranda Prater - June 13, 2018 at 02:20 PM

MP

Thank you, Pam ❤️

Miranda Prater - June 13, 2018 at 02:32 PM

LB

“ Miranda...I've known you and Sandra my entire postal carrier.... 30 years now..... it was always a joy to speak with your mom when she resided in our zone... she was always so sweet and extended a continuous WORD OF CONCERN AND ENCOURAGEMENT..!!!! I'm unable to attend the services but know that I'm praying that the Peace of God will keep you as your minds and hearts are stayed on Him..!!! Love you guys.... praying STRENGTH for the Entire Family... God's PEACE & BLESSINGS ❤️💕💕💕

Lynnetta Barnes - May 19, 2018 at 05:14 PM

LM

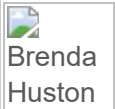
Family lore has it that a young Mary Louise worked for my LaFeria grandfather, JC Dunn. My mother recounts happy memories knowing the tall and beautiful red-head her father hired and who often would oversee my mother and her siblings who were about 10-15 years younger. I remember returning to live in the RGV in 1990 after having been gone for 20 years and meeting her in front of Winn's discount store on 10th Street. With her updated permed Afro hairstyle and snug jeans at 68, she had just come from an aerobic workout at Ultrafit and was, no doubt, probably the envy of every 68 year old woman in the Rio Grande Valley. I loved Mrs. Prater's quick wit, dimpled smile and happy heart. She was a true inspiration and I always felt related just because of her early young adult connection to working for my grandfather. It has been a blessing now for almost 30 years for Jim and I to have lived across the street from her dear son, Larry & his sweet wife Judy Prater and Family. We will see her again one day in Heaven!
Lisa Morrow

Lisa K. Morrow - May 21, 2018 at 10:24 PM

MP

Thank you for such kind words about my mom. You make my heart happy!

Miranda Prater - May 23, 2018 at 07:58 PM



Brenda
Huston

Ah, Miranda, I know what you are going through. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Brenda Huston

Brenda Huston - May 24, 2018 at 02:09 PM

MP

Thank you, Brenda. She had a wonderful life..but of course I am still sad. God's peace for us all.

Miranda Prater - May 26, 2018 at 07:16 PM