



Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin

July 1, 1924 - April 8, 2015

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 2:00 PM for Bernice Irwin at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home in Henderson, Texas.

Bernice Evelyn (Ellis) Irwin was born in Hornbeck, Louisiana on July 1, 1924. She grew up in a close, loving family. As a young child, she was affectionately called "Tibby" by her siblings, which later in life became the name referred to her by her grandchildren and those close to her. Her family moved to Selman City, Texas in 1937, just months after the tragic explosion of the New London School on March 18, 1937. Two years later, her family moved to New London where she spent the rest of her childhood.

She graduated from New London High School on May 29, 1941 at 16 years of age. After her 18th birthday, she left New London to pursue her passion and attended Scott and White School of Nursing in Temple, Texas. While attending Scott and White, she witnessed the first penicillin drug introduced to that hospital; however, at that time, nurses were not allowed to administer the drug. She graduated from Scott and White as a Registered Nurse on May 14, 1945.

Soon after graduation, she moved back to East Texas where she met the love of her life, Billy Joe Irwin. They were married on December 11, 1945. Until Billy Joe's death on January 17, 1984, they lived in Laneville. Billy Joe and Bernice enjoyed many exciting years as members of Sharon Temple Shrine Club, where Billy Joe was a member of the Mini Patrol and served on the Divan. She was a member of the Daughters of the Nile of Sharon Temple.

Bernice, often called 'Bea' by her colleagues, worked at Henderson Memorial Hospital for many years. In 1962, she became director of the Henderson Memorial Hospital Vocational Nursing School where she taught for 22 years. After retiring from the hospital, her next venture was with Visiting Nurses of East Texas (a Home Health Care Agency) where she became Regional Director in 1986.

In 1989, Bernice moved to Henderson where she joined Trinity Baptist Church. The Grace Sunday School Class was a big part of her life where she made and cherished many friendships.

Along with the love of nursing and taking care of family, Tibby absolutely loved cooking and eating good food. One of her favorite pastimes was reading cookbooks and finding new recipes. She was best known for baking pralines, apple pies, and cakes. Making special desserts, birthday cakes, or pies for the special people in her life brought her extreme happiness and joy. After retiring from nursing, she pursued her passion for cooking by entering numerous recipe contests. Tibby won First Prize in Prevention Magazine's Healthy Recipe Contest with her entry of "Apple Yogurt Surprise" in 1995. Her legacy of cooking will live on through her four grandchildren (who all LOVE to cook) and through all those many friends with whom she shared her favorite recipes. Bernice is preceded in death by her parents, John Barnett and Pallie Olivia (Belvin) Ellis, her husband, Billy Joe Irwin, and her sister, LaVerne Poole. She is survived by a son, Dr. Billy Wayne Irwin and his wife, Virginia, a daughter, Jetti Irwin Fahle and her husband, David. She leaves behind four grandchildren, Casey Wayne Irwin and his wife Emma, Kati Beth Wagner and her husband Graham, Jordan Lynn Fahle and Jenna Leigh Fahle. She was gifted with three great grand children, Emma Frances Irwin, William Bryce Irwin, and Lucia Beatrice Wagner. She also leaves behind a brother Wayne Ellis and his wife, Jean Ellis, a sister and special friend, LaMerle Poole. Also, numerous special nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

The family extends our heartfelt gratitude for all the loving care that she has received in the last few years of her life. A sincere thank you to "our Aunt

Merle” (LaMerle Poole) for her steadfast love shown to Tibby throughout her life; to the staff and special nurses at Autumn Leaves Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; her long term caretaker for the last two years, Verlisha Stiggers; and lastly, to the wonderful nurses and staff of Angel Care Hospice for their exceptional care in the last days of her life.

Pallbearers will be: Jimmy Poole, Johnny Poole, Tommy Poole, Darrell Poole, Tommy Crainer and Johnny Wayne Ellis, Jr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of: Bernice Irwin -- The Billy Joe and Bernice Ellis Irwin Nursing Scholarship, SFASU Alumni Foundation, Post Office Box 6096, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-0001 Donations may also be made online: [SFA Alumni.com](http://SFAAlumni.com)

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

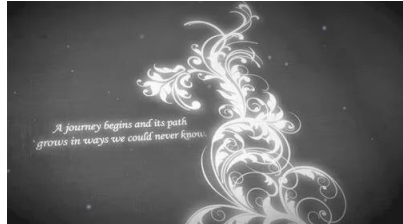
APR 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall



“ *Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - April 10, 2015 at 11:07 PM

LS

“ *Linda Sipes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Linda Sipes - April 24, 2015 at 07:09 PM

JR

“ *Dear Billy,
Your mom was such an inspiration to so many, I bet she is in heaven with all those retired RNs checking the beds for the mitered corners, and tight sheets that a quarter could bounce from. Treasure all the good memories you have of her. Joyce Story RN*

Joyce Story RN - April 14, 2015 at 07:43 AM

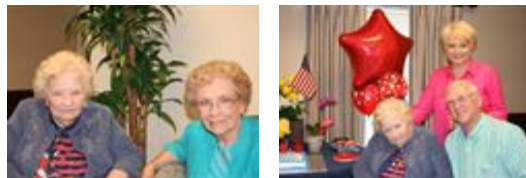
JC

“ Dear Jetti and Family,
Peace be with all of you as today is a difficult day.
Ms Bernie, was quite a gift to all of us. She was a wonderful soul,
beautiful and strong. I was always impressed when she would drive
all the way to Houston to see Jetti and family without hesitation and
often.
Ms. Bernie had spunk and independence. She visited with us all
and often walked through our parks and green belts. It was always
so nice to see her.
One day I saw Ms. Bernie sitting in a field of clover in our corner
park. After checking on her and calling Jetti... I learned Ms. Bernie
was always on a search for a lucky 4-leaf clover!
Ms Bernie, today in heaven, I hope you find all the 4-leaf clover you
desire.
Today, I can't look at a clover field without thinking of you and your
mom...forever touched.
God bless all of you.
Love, Jill, Santino and family

Jill Costanzo - April 11, 2015 at 08:06 PM



“ 203 files added to the album LifeTributes



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - April 10, 2015 at 10:44 PM

CM

“You left a mark in Zavalla (you & Bill) that will never be erased...a very good one. Love from Cary & Sylvia (Harvard) Modisett”

Cary Modisett - April 10, 2015 at 08:05 PM

LJ

“We loved your Mom, Billy Wayne ~ She treated us like she'd known us all our lives ~ and she'd just met us! Always curious about our kids & their kids. You are blessed with a good heritage & many sweet memories. With Love & Prayers, Lisa & John

Lisa Jones - April 10, 2015 at 04:55 PM

AL

“Amy Locklear lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin



Amy Locklear - April 10, 2015 at 04:46 PM

WE

“Bea was a very caring person. She loved her family and I was a sister in law and she treaded me just like her sisters. And Wayne was a adored brother to her. The family times were spent with a lot of laughter and jokes. She visited our home in NM many times. her cooking was the best ever. We will miss her daily ,but she is in heaven with her Lord and Savior and with all the loved ones that went before her. Billy & Jetti you had wonderful Mother.

Wayne & Jean Ellis - April 10, 2015 at 02:39 PM

RV

“ *Roberta Vallantyne lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Roberta Vallantyne - April 10, 2015 at 02:19 PM

TM

“ *Bernice was lovely to look at and ever so special to know as a person. I will never forget her and always consider her the best person I ever knew. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this sad time. May your memories of her bring you comfort in the days ahead.*

Sincerely,

Tommie J. Cassels Major, Mobile, AL

Tommie J. Cassels Major - April 10, 2015 at 01:17 PM

GS

“ *Gayle Sullins*



Gayle Sullins - April 10, 2015 at 11:10 AM

AT

“ *May the constant love of caring friends and family soften your sadness . May cherished memories bring you moments of comfort. May lasting peace surround your grieving heart...*

Amy Thompson

amy Thompsonf - April 10, 2015 at 11:07 AM

LS

“ Mrs. Irwin and I became good friends at Autumn Leaves , I leaned so much about her and her family, I got to love her and the family alot I will miss her , My prayer are with you all Linda Schuck

Linda Schuck - April 10, 2015 at 06:34 AM

DS

“ We will miss this special lady. She was a blessing to so many and lived a full,fruitful life.

Donna Stanley - April 09, 2015 at 04:19 PM

BP

“ Bill & Lori (Burke) Pryor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin



Bill & Lori (Burke) Pryor - April 09, 2015 at 12:27 PM

MM

“ Melissa Morton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin



Melissa Morton - April 09, 2015 at 09:53 AM

EG

“ *Ellie Glenn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Ellie Glenn - April 09, 2015 at 09:05 AM

MS

“ *Martha Solomon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Martha Solomon - April 09, 2015 at 07:10 AM

CB

“ *Cindy Hooks Belcher lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Cindy Hooks Belcher - April 08, 2015 at 03:05 PM

JL

“ *Judy Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Judy Lewis - April 08, 2015 at 02:54 PM

MN

“ *Matt And Melanie Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Matt and Melanie Newcomb - April 08, 2015 at 02:50 PM

JH

“ *Jennifer Morris Hale lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice (Ellis) Irwin*



Jennifer Morris Hale - April 08, 2015 at 10:30 AM