



## Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney

February 25, 1946 - September 29, 2016

A celebration of the life of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney, 70, of Henderson, will be held at 2 pm on Thursday, October 6, 2016, in the chapel of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home with Chris Burris officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 pm until service time on Thursday at the funeral home.

Ms. Chaney passed from this life on September 29, 2016, at Autumn Leaves Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Henderson. She was born February 25, 1946, in Covina, CA to the late Julian M. and Honorina (Martinez) Verdugo. She was of Indian nationality of the Chumash and Mescalero Indians. Bess was a member of the original GRA (Girl's Rodeo Association). She joined the professional rodeo circuit as a professional barrel racer. She was a gold card member of the Women's Professional Rodeo Association and a Sierra Circuit Finalist for 12 consecutive years. Bess competed in the major professional rodeos including Salinas, Cow Palace and Reno. She was featured in an issue of Women's Sports Magazine, September, 1974. She was a member of the National Barrel Horse Association where she was the 2003 NBHA Senior 2D National Champion and a member of the Longhorn Barrel Racing Association in Texas. After her professional rodeo career, Bess continued sharing her skills and knowledge by teaching young children of all ages, basic horsemanship and how to compete in the sport of barrel racing. She was an instructor and mentor at several stables in California including Whittier Narrows, Sunset, Glenmore, Two Winds Ranch, Arroyo Seco Stables and

Riverside Equestrian Center. Working through the different facilities, Bess helped raise, mentored and loved her students as they were her own, making a lasting impact on many of their lives.

Bess worked as a vet tech for an emergency clinic in Temecula, California. She relocated to Texas with Rojo Ranch where she assisted in daily ranch maintenance in addition to caring for and training colts until her accident in February, 2008. It was evident Bess had a strong love for animals and outdoors. She was very health conscious often exercising, running and eating nutritional foods. Bess was an incredibly strong minded and strong willed individual. She attended Bar None Cowboy Church, and her love for the Lord was often shared. Her long time rodeo friends expressed she was an amazing competitor to watch and will always remember her beautiful long Indian braids. Through the trials of her paralysis, she never stopped trying or pushing herself to conquer obstacles placed before her. Her positive attitude and winning spirit is a legacy she leaves with all who knew her. Bess Chaney will forever be our champion.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husband, Jack Chaney and Wade McComas, and her brother, David Verdugo.

Survivors include her niece, Vivian Dutch and husband Michael; great-nephew, Taylor Dutch; step-sons, Jerry McComas and Marty McComas; as well as numerous friends and loved ones.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **6**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

OCT **6**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

TD

“ *aww mrs chaney i am a little bit late and am just now seing this you were always so funny i took care of you for a couple years and you always were such a happy kind loving lady*

tiffany dowell - September 16, 2021 at 12:59 AM

DP

“ *Debbie Parsons lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



Debbie Parsons - December 29, 2016 at 12:21 PM

PH

“ *Phyllis Collins Harwood lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



Phyllis Collins Harwood - October 06, 2016 at 09:48 AM

M"

“ *My memories are endless and my heart is?flooded with emotion. I could write a book of Bessie memories. I remember endless days on the ranch and when she piled all us girls in her small brown truck at times picking up 6 girls so we could all be at the ranch with her. Best times of my life surrounded by the greatest friends any little girl could ever dream of. Many lessons learned in that truck.*

Megan "mega-woman" - October 05, 2016 at 11:05 AM

KK

“ *Its difficult to pin point the most amazing qualities of Bess. But what stands out for me is Bess made time for everyone. If you had trouble with your horse, trouble at home or just needed some unsolicited advise Bess knew and she was there. There will never be another Bess Chaney but the memories we hold and share of her will always be told.*



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**Kathie Kalinowski** - October 05, 2016 at 09:58 AM

A(

“ *Angel Mitchell (Johnson) lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



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**Angel Mitchell (Johnson)** - October 04, 2016 at 05:19 PM

IL

“ *Many years ago I took my now adult daughter to the Aroyo Stables to learn how to ride horses, an animal that she had a passion for. Every Saturday we were there, year after year. She learned to ride well and her dream was to have her own horse.*

*When Bessie arrived on the scene, her riding got better and better and her longing got bigger and bigger. One day Bessie appeared with a horse that she had bought at auction just for her. No one asked her to, no one knew she was going to do it, she just saw the desire and filled it. Not only did my daughter have her own horse but she immediately got a job after school to pay for it. Bessie made a dream come true for my little girl who is now a woman with a home and a pasture and two, soon to be three horses of her own. Bessie changed lives just by being herself and I will always remember her with love.*

*Irene Lackey, Mother of Susannah Lackey*

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**Irene Lackey** - October 04, 2016 at 01:05 PM

DR

“ *Dina Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



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**Dina Reynolds** - October 04, 2016 at 12:07 PM

DY

“ *Bess was an Amazing Woman who loved Horses and riding, she and my sister barrel raced together back in the days that I knew her in California*



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**Dexter Yeats** - October 04, 2016 at 11:29 AM

DY

“ *Dexter Yeats lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



**Dexter Yeats** - October 04, 2016 at 11:26 AM

FC

“ *Fran Crownover lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



**Fran Crownover** - October 04, 2016 at 10:27 AM

VI

“ *Virginia Irwin lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



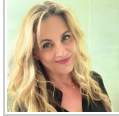
**Virginia Irwin** - October 04, 2016 at 10:02 AM



“ *Sophie Deason-Royer lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



**Sophie Deason-Royer** - October 04, 2016 at 09:52 AM



*Bessie, I hope you are able to find comfort now. I love you and will forever hold a place in my heart for you.*

**Sophie Deason-Royer** - October 04, 2016 at 09:55 AM

VD

“ *Vivian Dutch lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



**Vivian Dutch** - October 04, 2016 at 09:42 AM

MJ

“ *Marilyn Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



**Marilyn Johnson** - October 03, 2016 at 10:12 AM

MB

“ *Marion Bockwich lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney*



**Marion Bockwich** - September 30, 2016 at 09:17 PM

EO

“ Elizabeth And Danny Odom lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bessie Louise Chaney



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**Elizabeth and Danny Odom** - September 30, 2016 at 02:07 PM

EO

*Our son, Daniel, loved to visit with Mrs. Chaney. She will be missed. She certainly took her condition well. Never complaining she flew on. Now she is in the arms of Jesus, to fly forever more. God bless the family at this time. Elizabeth Odom*

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**Elizabeth and Danny Odom** - September 30, 2016 at 02:10 PM