



Mrs. Fonta Conway

April 18, 1931 - May 29, 2021

Funeral services for Mrs. Fonta B. "Tonti" Conway, 90, of Henderson, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in the chapel at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home with Rev. Michelle Goff and Jimmy Chapman officiating. Interment will follow at Lakewood Memorial Park under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, May 31, at the funeral home.

Mrs. Conway passed from this life on May 29, 2021, at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. She was born April 18, 1931, in Brinkley, Arkansas to the late Roger and Mollie (Hopson) Brittenum. She attended Brinkley schools, graduating from Brinkley High School, and went on to Arkansas State Teacher's College, now the University of Central Arkansas, to receive her Bachelor's degree. Fonta later received her Master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. In December of 1957, she moved to Henderson and has called it home ever since.

Mrs. Conway served as the County Coordinator and Home Demonstration Agent for Rusk County. Upon her retirement in 1996, she went to work for Donovan's and worked there for another 15 years. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi, the American Home Economics Association, and the Rusk County

Chamber of Commerce where she was a Silver Star. She also volunteered with the Rusk County Youth Project Show for 40 years. Mrs. Conway was involved with the Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center and served on the Rusk County Children's Welfare Board. She was also an active and long-time member of First Presbyterian Church of Henderson.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Laborn Conway; and brothers and sisters, Billy Brittenum, Augusta Greene, Roger Brittenum, John Greenlee Brittenum, Dee Brittenum, and Mollie Hopson Duncan.

Survivors include her children, Dee Lee Conway Smith of Henderson, and Burr Conway and wife Teresa of Henderson; grandson, Cody Conway and his girlfriend Hannah Fudge; her beloved dog, Ginger; as well as a host of nieces and nephews, numerous cousins, other family and many, many friends.

Pallbearers will be Cody Conway, Mark Perry, Hunter Perry, Greg Gibson, Donovan Dickeson, and John Bruce Hillin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church at P.O. Box 773, Henderson, TX 75653.

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

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Memorial Park

Hwy 64 and 323
Henderson, TX 75652

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 S. Main St
Henderson, TX 75654

Service

JUN 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 S. Main St
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall



“ Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - May 31, 2021 at 02:22 PM

PA

We are sadden by the loss of such a sweet lady ! RIP

Patsy and Thomas Anderson - June 02, 2021 at 11:49 AM

MC

“ My thoughts are with you DeeLee and your family. I pray God will comfort you with His Presence.

Mary Sue Sue Cole - June 12, 2021 at 05:03 AM

DG

“ Dinah Gray (for All The Grays) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Dinah Gray (for all the Grays) - June 10, 2021 at 11:15 AM

DG

“ *Dinah Gray (for All The Grays) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Dinah Gray (for all the Grays) - June 10, 2021 at 11:14 AM

RJ

“ *Randy & Tracey Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Randy & Tracey Johnson - June 04, 2021 at 01:53 PM

WG

“ *Wonderful Pine St neighbor and friend.*



Wendy Gray - June 02, 2021 at 10:26 PM

KA

“ *Ms. Conway was a wonderful person. I worked for Ms. Conway at Texas A and M extension office when I was 19 years old. She hired me and I had never worked before. I have good memories working with her. She was always encouraging me to return to college and complete my degree. Those days were wonderful times. Kay Trammell*

KayTrammell - June 02, 2021 at 05:53 PM

DC

“ Dianne Choice lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Dianne Choice - June 01, 2021 at 09:31 PM

GA

“ Fonta was a part of my life in different places and stages since 1959, First it was as a tween in 4-H. In the late '70s, she was part of a social group with my West Rusk fellow teachers. After her first retirement in the '90s, she was a pleasure to visit with at Donovan's.

I feel it's rare to have a 62-year, varied connection with a person when it's separated by a number of years. Because she was "Fonta," it's not surprising.

Gay Allen - June 01, 2021 at 05:30 PM

BG

“ Becky Gholson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Becky Gholson - June 01, 2021 at 12:01 PM

AB

“ I am very grateful for my aunt's kindness in remembering me, assuring me connection to my father's family. I remember her as thoughtful, kind, intelligent and witty. I admire her spunk and think of her as one astutely observant. There is no doubt she will be deeply missed. I offer condolences and send love and prayers.
Ann Brittenum

Ann Brittenum - June 01, 2021 at 11:49 AM

CV

“ Carla Vaught lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Carla Vaught - June 01, 2021 at 11:38 AM

PL

“ Patricia Laney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



patricia laney - June 01, 2021 at 11:00 AM

BB

“ I thank our Lord for your LIFETIME of faithful Service, sharing ALL your Gifts & talents to & for ALL Rusk County
“Well done, good & faithful Servant...”



Beverly A Brooks - June 01, 2021 at 10:24 AM

EL

“ *Ella Lays lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Ella Lays - June 01, 2021 at 09:29 AM

MC

“ *Melissa Thornley Curtis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Melissa Thornley Curtis - May 31, 2021 at 11:07 PM

BB

“ *Bobby & Teresa Brady lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Bobby & Teresa Brady - May 31, 2021 at 10:35 PM

DC

“ *David Kathy Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



David Kathy Chapman - May 31, 2021 at 10:32 PM

DC

“ We will miss this lady in Rusk County. I came to HENDERSON, Tx in 1975. She was one of the first persons I was introduced to. A good friend. I ask her to come to the CHAPMAN Community Center Fair every year as a Judge. She had a lot of fun with the older ones and with the younger people at that time. She helped with Red and Blue Ribbons in different categories. Always wanting to give information. She came and held a small group of cooking classes and we all enjoyed that. Since those days, we have had a good friendship. I picked her up one day she was walking, trying to get home before it rained. We barely made it, but we did make it. She called and said she had gotten and then the bottom had fallen out. Rained like crazy that day. She was a lovely, funny lady. Rest In Peace Ms. Fonta. You deserve it!
Our Deepest Sympathies,
David and Kathy Chapman

David Kathy Chapman - May 31, 2021 at 10:32 PM

SF

“ Mrs. Conway was one of my county agents when I was a young 4-Her in a Rusk County. I learned so much from her. She's a treasure that will be missed.



Scott S. Floyd - May 31, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ Always loved visiting with Fonta. Prayers
Susan Bowland and Sue Sample



Susan Bowland - May 31, 2021 at 08:37 PM

LS

“ dear Family.. We will Cry with you, We will Pray with you, and We will Laugh & Rejoice with you, that our dear Fonta is in Heaven telling God & all the Angels, how to bake a cake, sew a seam, and the best Flowers for front gates!! and Laborn.. well Laborn's being Laborn....excited too!

blessings Jim and Lynda Stroud and family

Lynda Dale Stroud - May 31, 2021 at 08:02 PM

JB

“ Jane Brightwell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Jane Brightwell - May 31, 2021 at 08:02 PM

TC

“ Tony And Anita Cavaliere lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Tony and Anita Cavaliere - May 31, 2021 at 07:29 PM

RE

“ Robert & Dianne Everitt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Robert & Dianne Everitt - May 31, 2021 at 05:24 PM

LB

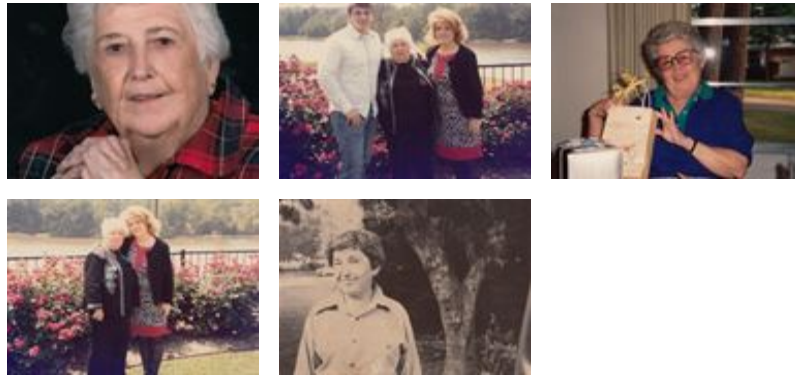
“ *Lisa Barnett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Lisa Barnett - May 31, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *100 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - May 31, 2021 at 02:19 PM

JP

“ *DeeLee*
I enjoyed your mom so much in the short time I was around her. She was so encouraging and helpful to me when I was teaching. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to know her. Jan Pirtle



Jan Pirtle - May 31, 2021 at 02:11 PM

JY

“ *JIM&WILMA YOUNG lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



JIM&WILMA YOUNG - May 31, 2021 at 01:19 PM

TF

“ *DeeLee & Burr,*

I sincerely wish I could be with y'all at your mother's memorial service on June 1. Because I cannot, I at least hope to overcome the miles' distance with a few remembrances and reflections valuable to me.

When I arrived in Henderson in 1983, your dad had been ill for awhile. I always felt I did not contribute very much to him & your mom in terms of pastoral care. Mariella & Neil Pennal encouraged me, though, that being consistent & supportive was what I could do, so far as what the church expected from me. When Laborn died, I again felt inadequate to the task as pastor, but your mom was patient and gracious, although I know her exhaustion was second only to his.

Until I moved to Tulsa in 1994, and across the years following, she shared with me what & how y'all were doing before she ever caught me up on what & how she was doing. Being a good friend of Mary Jackson, the two of them and the rest of the First Presbyterian folks treated our sons Kendall & Payton as their own grandchildren and never failed to ask about them each time we crossed paths over the ensuing years.

You see what I am communicating: Your mom gave to me and my family the authentic and generous care, friendship, laughter, caring, and love that God desires consistently, even though we who receive those gifts of grace can never earn them. Otherwise, it would not be grace, and we certainly would be the poorer for it!

God bless Fonta, and each of you. I will always be in her debt, and in God's debt because of all that is sacred which she shared with the Foote family. Such a rich gift from God to so many!

Gratefully, Ted (& Joanie) Foote

Ted Foote - May 31, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ *Rest in peace my precious friend. Praying for your family*

Linda J Smith



Linda Smith - May 31, 2021 at 12:34 PM



“ *I am extremely proud to say I've known Fonta literally since birth. I loved Fonta Conway! She and Lab played very important parts in my upbringing and I smile when I think of all the memories.*

Jolynn Wilder - May 31, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Paula Crim lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Paula Crim - May 31, 2021 at 12:07 PM



“ *Claudia Hale Bozich lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Claudia Hale Bozich - May 31, 2021 at 10:40 AM

MG

“ *Missy Hacker & Steve Green lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Missy Hacker & Steve Green - May 31, 2021 at 10:27 AM

EM

“ *Such a wonderful woman and will always have my childhood memories of her, she will be greatly missed!*



Emilie Mullins - May 31, 2021 at 09:50 AM

MM

“ *Prayers to Fonda's family during this time of loss. I always enjoyed visiting with her at Donovans and finding out what new accomplishments her grandson Cody had done. She will be missed. Sharla and Milton McGee*



Milton and Sharla McGee - May 31, 2021 at 09:44 AM

BG

“ *Praying for peace and comfort for family and friends*
Bonnie Geddie



Bonnie Geddie - May 31, 2021 at 09:32 AM

MF

“ *Mary Fullen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Mary Fullen - May 31, 2021 at 08:50 AM

SS

“ *Gaylord and Susan*



susan smith - May 31, 2021 at 08:46 AM

MG

“ *Mark Nancy Gibson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Mark Nancy Gibson - May 31, 2021 at 08:43 AM

MG

“ *Mark Nancy Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Mark Nancy Gibson - May 31, 2021 at 08:42 AM

TS

“ *Tim & Kathy Storer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Tim & Kathy Storer - May 31, 2021 at 08:37 AM

BH

“ *Lot's of good memories I have with Laborn, Fonta, Dee Lee and Burloo as our family friends. Camping and fishing trips from Stricker to Toledo Bend. Fish fries and doves cooks at their big two story house and Out Back here at Joinerville. Even though she was a small lady she was a big part of the Hale children's young life's. May GOD be with the FAMILY at times like these. Thanks for the good memories Fonta.....*

Brent Hale - May 31, 2021 at 08:01 AM

 Phyllis Ribble

“ *Fonta had a great love for her Ginger & Sassy that grew into a loving friendship. Sitting in front of Gina's, we had lots of long conversations about pets, family & friends. We had a special bond. Fonta was an amazing Lady & a strong person. Fonta we will talk again before too long.. I love you my friend and you will be missed!*

Phyllis Ribble - May 31, 2021 at 07:52 AM

KT

“ Ken And Neccy Tillism lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Ken and Neccy Tillism - May 31, 2021 at 06:17 AM

TB

“ Tina Brents lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Tina Brents - May 31, 2021 at 05:38 AM

HC

“ Harry F. And Martha D. Carter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Harry F. and Martha D. Carter - May 31, 2021 at 02:35 AM

DK

“ David & Dianna Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



David & Dianna Kelley - May 31, 2021 at 12:27 AM

BD

“ *I'm so sorry, she was a sweet lady*

Brandy Duncan - May 31, 2021 at 12:14 AM

JB

“ *Great love to all and will miss your presence among those in our family. Judy, Julie and Jon*



judy Brittenum - May 30, 2021 at 11:32 PM

CB

“ *Carolyn Boren lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Carolyn Boren - May 30, 2021 at 11:26 PM

CK

“ *Cathy Green Kovschak lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Cathy Green Kovschak - May 30, 2021 at 10:51 PM

CG

“ Words cannot express how much I loved this lady. She taught me so much. She loved my children so much. I pray for the family. She will be missed.

Cheryl Gill - May 30, 2021 at 10:44 PM

VM

“ Fonta was one of a kind. She was a caring person and a light for my children. She will be missed.



Vicki & Joe Mullins - May 30, 2021 at 10:41 PM

JM

“ Jean McLaurin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Jean McLaurin - May 30, 2021 at 10:39 PM

PM

“ Paula Minter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Paula Minter - May 30, 2021 at 10:25 PM

CT

“ Chuck & Lisa Towe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Chuck & Lisa Towe - May 30, 2021 at 10:23 PM

JB

“ Our dear Aunt Fonta - or Sissy" as we called you lovingly- we will miss you and the joy you have always brought us. The sparkle and smile could make the day for anyone. We will all meet again!
Love, Judy Brittenum, Julie Brittenum Walters and "Jon Jon" Brittenum

judy Brittenum - May 30, 2021 at 10:10 PM

BH

“ Barbara & Joel Hale sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Barbara & Joel Hale - May 30, 2021 at 10:07 PM

BM

“ Hugs to all the Conway family!!



Becky Massengale - May 30, 2021 at 09:54 PM

GG

“ Greg And Melinda Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Greg and Melinda Gibson - May 30, 2021 at 09:36 PM

PD

“ Pat & Roy Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Pat & Roy Davis - May 30, 2021 at 09:32 PM

KF

“ Love me some Fonta she was such a joy to be around she has been in my family for years and years we have had so much fun together at family events going to miss u Fonta fly high and say hi to memaw for us until we meet again in heaven love u so very much.



Kimberly Fancher - May 30, 2021 at 09:28 PM

SI

“ Sandy Inscore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Sandy Inscore - May 30, 2021 at 09:07 PM

KP

“ *Kathy Porter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Kathy Porter - May 30, 2021 at 09:01 PM

WP

“ *Wes Partin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Wes partin - May 30, 2021 at 08:42 PM

ML

“ *Mary Lowe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Mary Lowe - May 30, 2021 at 08:42 PM

AM

“ *Amy Miley-Payne lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Amy Miley-Payne - May 30, 2021 at 08:16 PM

CW

“ I have so many memories of great conversations with Fonta. She will truly be missed.



Cyndi Walker - May 30, 2021 at 08:07 PM

LT

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for all of you



Liz Thrasher - May 30, 2021 at 07:58 PM

LS

“ Leslie Spell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Leslie Spell - May 30, 2021 at 06:20 PM

GH

“ Glenda Humphries lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



glenda humphries - May 30, 2021 at 05:44 PM

RF

“ Robby & Betty Foster lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Robby & Betty Foster - May 30, 2021 at 05:14 PM

BF

“ My deepest sympathy to all the family. May you rest in peace.



Betty Foster - May 30, 2021 at 04:49 PM

RF

“ So sorry for the loss of a sweet lady and prayers to all of the Conway family.



Robby Betty Foster - May 30, 2021 at 04:44 PM

SG

“ So sorry for your loss !



Scott Gibson - May 30, 2021 at 03:19 PM

SS

“ I will always remember this sweet lady. She taught me so much. I will be praying for this family.

Shauna Singletary - May 30, 2021 at 02:44 PM

MA

“ Merlene Ainsworth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Merlene Ainsworth - May 30, 2021 at 02:23 PM

ED

“ Elaine Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Elaine Davis - May 30, 2021 at 02:10 PM

GG

“ Greg And Melinda Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Greg and Melinda Gibson - May 30, 2021 at 01:32 PM

SC

“ Suzanne Cross. Dee Lee and Burr my deepest sympathy to U during this sad time of your life. How fortunate you were to have your amazing mother to guide you through your life.



Suzanne Cross - May 30, 2021 at 01:22 PM

RS

“ Ralph & Kay Scoggins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Ralph & Kay Scoggins - May 30, 2021 at 12:37 PM

RS

“ Ralph And Kay Scoggins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Ralph and Kay Scoggins - May 30, 2021 at 12:33 PM

SR

“ Suzanne Reed lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Suzanne Reed - May 30, 2021 at 12:30 PM



“ *Cyndy Broadus lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Cyndy Broadus - May 30, 2021 at 12:05 PM

CM

“ *Holding the family gently in my heart and loudly in my prayers.*



Claudia Morgan-Gray - May 30, 2021 at 11:54 AM

BH

“ *Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Bob & Sue Henderson - May 30, 2021 at 11:33 AM

JN

“ *We are saddened to hear of Fonta's passing. She was one of the first people we met when we moved to Henderson and was truly one of a kind. Sending you Light and Love. Jon and James Nicholson*

Jon Nicholson - May 30, 2021 at 11:19 AM

SP

“ *This wonderful lady will be dearly missed and long remembered for her loving and generous spirit! My prayers and love to DeeLee, Burr, and all the family.*

Suellen Perry - May 30, 2021 at 11:07 AM

BH

“ *Barbara & Joel Hale sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Barbara & Joel Hale - May 30, 2021 at 11:04 AM

JS

“ *Roger and I send love to the Conway family. Fonta and Lab were the best neighbors we have ever had! Prayers and hugs, DeeLee and Burrloo.*

Roger and Jan Spann

Jan Spann - May 30, 2021 at 11:00 AM

MS

“ *Monica & Bob Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Monica & Bob Sanders - May 30, 2021 at 09:40 AM



“ Memories are so poignant of Fonta and Laborn over a lifetime. Discussing recipes and cooking techniques with Fonta and historical events and printing with “Lab,” whose assistance was invaluable in creating the newspaper exhibit in the East Texas Oil Museum. Two great citizens and role models for all that knew them!



Joe White - May 30, 2021 at 08:48 AM



“ Virginia Irwin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



Virginia Irwin - May 30, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of this dear lady...I treasure the memories of our good times with she and Lab..Pud Patterson

pud patterson - May 30, 2021 at 07:49 AM



“ Pud Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway



pud patterson - May 30, 2021 at 07:47 AM

RS

“ *Rick Sparks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Fonta Conway*



Rick Sparks - May 30, 2021 at 06:50 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family. Mrs. Conway taught many young ladies valuable lessons through the 4H program. I will always credit her with my love of sewing. God Bless you all.*



Stephanie Green Osteen

Stephanie Osteen - May 30, 2021 at 12:23 AM