



Mrs. Johnnie Ruth Southern "Mamma Johnnie" Lynch

October 17, 1923 - August 3, 2013

In 1923, a middle aged man, John Burton Southern, 51, and his much younger wife, Minnie Bell (Welch) Southern, 35, along with their daughter, Mary Kathryn Southern, 10, and their son, Furrn Ulises Southern 18, and probably the entire small, rural community of Springtown, Texas, west of Fort Worth, were eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new, and most likely, an unexpected baby for this family. In the middle of October, a tiny, brown-eyed baby girl arrived, and was named Johnnie Ruth Southern, in honor of her father, John, and secondly, after Ruth, the Biblical character known as the model for loving and kindness. As it turned out, John and Minnie Southern could not have named their new daughter more appropriately. Indeed, Johnnie Ruth Southern Lynch dedicated her life to sharing love and kindness.

Johnnie Ruth Southern was born into a world that was rapidly changing. In 1908 the Model T was introduced to the public for the first time, and just three years before Johnnie's birth, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was signed giving women the right to vote. Sadly in 1929, about the time little Johnnie Ruth was beginning first grade, the United States was entering the Great Depression, a time where she learned first-hand, about "hard times". Johnnie often said that she never felt deprived growing up during the depression since her family grew their own food and always had plenty to eat, but clearly they struggled financially. Johnnie Ruth only had two dresses at-a-time when attending school and homework had to be completed by a

kerosene lamp since electricity was not available in rural areas of Texas. The one thing that she did have was a family who loved her greatly, and a much older brother and sister who spoiled her at every opportunity.

In 1940, Johnnie Ruth graduated high school, and then attended business school in Fort Worth. After the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, Johnnie gained employment at the Lockheed Plant in Fort Worth where she, and many other women, helped make parts for the B-24 Liberator. After the war ended in 1945, Johnnie went on to manage a ladies clothing boutique in Irving, Texas, and later moved into retail sales for Neiman-Marcus at the flagship store in downtown Dallas. Johnnie had fond memories of store meetings with Stanley Marcus and loved working “after hours” in the Neiman’s basement at night shipping silk stockings to eager women all over the United States who had to go without their favorite luxury, due to the rationing of silk which was used to make parachutes during the war. According to Johnnie, the overtime hours at Neiman-Marcus were financially rewarding, and she spent almost every overtime penny that she earned adding to her size 4 wardrobe. Johnnie always had a penchant for beautiful, stylish clothing and remained petite, stylish and beautiful into her senior years!

Not long after the end of World War II, Johnnie’s sister, Mary Kathryn (Southern) Warden, along with her best friend and “co-match-maker”, Bessie (Lynch) Clack, introduced Johnnie to a handsome WW II Veteran, from Gainesville, Texas, who was attending college at Texas A & M. Johnnie and the handsome veteran, Homer Henry (Stewart) Lynch, continued a long-distance relationship via the U.S. Mail, and they eventually made plans to marry once he finished his Master’s degree. On Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, 1947, Homer and Johnnie were married, and they remained so for 49 years, until Homer’s passing, in 1996. Johnnie and Homer brought two children into their union. Both children were born in the Texas Panhandle where Johnnie and Homer lived until Homer’s work with the Federal Government transferred

the family to Henderson in 1954.

Henderson has been home to Johnnie for 59 years. Since her arrival to Henderson, Johnnie has been an active and faithful member of the South Main Church of Christ where she was the “official greeter” on Sunday mornings until her health began to decline in March, 2012. Johnnie is best known by almost everyone in Henderson as the jewelry buyer at Wright-Dyer Drugs where she worked for many years until her husband became ill. Throughout her life, Johnnie was active in volunteer work, and was a Gray Lady volunteer at the Henderson Memorial Hospital in the early 1960’s, a Henderson ISD Eagle volunteer for many years, a Hospice of East Texas volunteer, and a docent at the Howard Dickinson Historical Home in Henderson.

Johnnie was blessed with a long, healthy life and was looking forward to her 90th birthday in October. She is survived by two children, Kathleen Lynch of Dallas and John Patrick Lynch, daughter-in-law, Sherry Lynch, and granddaughter, Kisha Lynch all from Lubbock. She is also survived by her shy yellow cat, Max, and sister-in-law, Zola (Lynch) Boston, formerly of Dallas, as well as many nieces and nephews.

The Lynch family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to Johnnie’s spiritual family at South Main Church of Christ and to Johnnie’s many friends throughout Henderson and Rusk County as well as Johnnie’s wonderful extended Southern, Warden, Lynch and Stewart families consisting of cousins, aunts, nieces and nephews. All of these wonderful people have extended much needed spiritual and emotional strength and love to Johnnie in her final days. Also many thanks to the doctors, nurses and all health care providers who gave physical care and love to Johnnie during her illness. We also want to thank Tameeka Harris for her care and support during “Mamma

Johnnie's" last year-and-a-half at her sweet home in Henderson, and many thanks to Mary Holt, Johnnie's neighbor and friend, who provided a temporary home for Max, the cat, in Johnnie's absence. Lastly, any memorials dedicated to Johnnie Lynch may be sent to Hospice of East Texas where Johnnie was an active volunteer until the end.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 pm Monday, August 5, 2013 at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Mrs. Lynch will be held at 10 am Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at South Main Church of Christ with Bob Payne and Dan E. Warden officiating. Interment will follow at Lakewood Memorial Park under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Chris Cummings, Joe Davis, Cliff Hurt Jr., Tom Jones, Don Sample, and Leroy Sedgwick. Honorary pallbearers will be Harold Baade, Ray Hall, Jeremiah Kingshipp, Devin LaBay, Greg McAdams, Ryan Shipp, Twayne Shipp, Phillip Slyby, Bill Stewart, Bob Stewart, and Rex Warden.

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

AUG 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

AUG 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

S. Main Church of Christ
402 S. Main
Henderson, TX 75652

Tribute Wall



“ Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Ruth Southern "Mamma Johnnie" Lynch



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - August 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Aunt Johnnie was so special to me and I have SO many special memories with her that I will always hold dear to my heart. I miss her terribly but I know she and Mama Kay are having a ball in heaven! I pray comfort for all of you and cherish the close relationship we all have.

Debi Warden Orozco - August 31, 2013 at 09:00 PM

TW

“ I am so blessed to be related to Aunt Johnnie. She and Homer both have had a big influence on my life. Johnnie was always so uplifting and encouraging; enthusiastic and positive. She made the world brighter, and brought happiness to everyone sh was around. To Kathleen and Pat, and everyone else in our family, let's thank God for the assurance of salvation and the hope we have to be with her and homer again in a little while.

Timothy Warden

Tim W - August 18, 2013 at 10:14 PM

TI

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Tim - August 18, 2013 at 10:13 PM

LE

“ We are so sorry to hear about your mother. I remember walking into Wright-Dyer and having her greet me with a smile and ask about the family when I was a teenager. Our thoughts are with you and we will be thinking about you in the coming days.

Warmly,
Laura, Jon and Hawkins Ehret

Laura Honeycutt Ehret - August 08, 2013 at 09:15 PM

CF

“ Johnnie was such a sweet and beautiful lady. Not only did she watch me grow up, but I also worked with Johnnie at Wright Dyer before I moved to go to college. Toby and I worked together with Johnnie and she kept us laughing and also gave us many lectures. I will never forget how she scooted around town in her little brown station wagon. If I was ever sad or down her hugs and smile always made things better. She will be missed by many.

Cathy Scoggins Fabbiani - August 07, 2013 at 06:23 AM

CH

“ *Johnnie was such a sweet lady and a true Aggie fan! When my (now 27 year old) son was a toddler and we would go in the drug store she would always get him to "Gig'em". She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.*

Mart and Cathy Hooper

Cathy Hooper - August 06, 2013 at 09:56 PM

LG

“ *Dear Family,
I worked with Johnnie for 10 years at Wright-Dyer and continued to love and admire her for years after I left and started teaching. She was a wonderful part of my teen years! Not all that long ago, she invited Todd (another co-worker) and myself to her home for a mini-reunion. We laughed, talked, and shared so many memories! It was a great night. Johnnie will be missed by many. I will keep you in my prayers in the days to come. Sincerely, Leesa Howeth Green*

Leesa Howeth Green - August 06, 2013 at 09:48 PM

GJ

“ *Am saddened by the passing of Ms. Johnnie. She was in Autumn Leaves when I was there. Such a dear person, really made my stay there enjoyable while she was there. A wonderful example of Christian Love. I know she will be missed greatly by family & church family & friends. God's blessings to all. Gloria Jones*

gloria jones - August 06, 2013 at 06:21 PM

PL

“ *Kathleen, I just loved your mother. I am so sorry for your loss. She was such a sweet, kind lady*

Paulette and Marie lee

Paulette Led - August 05, 2013 at 09:28 PM

DL

“ *Such a sweet, sweet Christian woman. Johnnie was always such an encouragement to so many - you never doubted whether or not she loved you because she was always sure to let you know. Our love and prayers for comfort to her family.*

*Devin and Cammy LaBay
Surprise, Arizona*

Devin LaBay - August 05, 2013 at 06:59 PM

KB

“ *I personally want to send condolences to Kathleen, Pat, Sherry and Kisha. My heart aches for you all. But we know Johnnie is celebrating in heaven!*

*Sincerely,
Karen (Mary Holt's sister/next door neighbor)*

Karen Belgard - August 05, 2013 at 05:46 PM

PH

“ *Johnnie was one of my mother's(Pauline Propes) dearest friends. They had many fun times together in Henderson. Mother was saddened by her passing and wishes to express her sympathy to Kathleen and Pat. Jack and I also send our condolences.*

*Sincerely,
Paula Hale*

Paula J Hale - August 05, 2013 at 05:09 PM

KB

“ *Johnnie always ended a phone call saying 'I love you.' That was one special thing about her. We could not have had a better neighbor. We send our condolences to her family.*
Mary, Karen and Willie

Karen Belgard - August 05, 2013 at 03:52 PM

RH

“ *A wonderful Christian lady loved by all. Johnnie will be missed. "Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the Joy of your Lord."*
Ray & Sandra Hall

Ray Hall - August 05, 2013 at 01:52 PM

DZ

“ *Johnnie will be deeply missed. She was a ray of sunshine regardless of the circumstances. She was a special part of our family. Our deepest sympathy to Kathleen and Pat and the entire family.*

Harold and Lowetta Baade, Paul and Debbie Zimmerman, Brooke and Jeremy Cartwright and Boys.

Debbie Zimmerman - August 05, 2013 at 09:49 AM

BP

“ *We are sorry for your loss, but happy for the memories and victorious life Johnnie. Bob and Rosemary Payne*

Bob Payne - August 04, 2013 at 03:52 PM