



## Mrs. Katherine Welch

December 23, 1919 - September 27, 2016

Our precious mother, Katherine Welch passed from this life on September 27, 2016 at the age of 96 years. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home chapel with Rev. Walter Sanders and Dr. David Higgs officiating. Interment will follow at Welch Cemetery under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home of Henderson.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, 2016 at the funeral home.

She was born December 23, 1919 in the Rhodes Community near Henderson, Texas to Cynthia (Clinton) and John Gage. She attended Minden Schools and graduated from high school in 1939. After a few years of courtship she became the wife of our dad, Vernon Welch on May 3, 1940. While dad was serving in the United States Army, Mom did clerical work in Port Arthur, Texas. After Dad returned home from WWII they began their family of four children. Mom was a loving wife, devoted mother, and a committed homemaker. She served God faithfully in the Baptist church teaching and on various committees. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Henderson. Also she was a charter member of the Nederland Chapter of Eastern Stars.

In 1964 she decided to take on the challenge of attending college at the age of 44. She successfully completed 60 college hours at Lamar University. She

passed the state exams to become a social worker in the Adult Services Program for the state of Texas. She eventually became a supervisor of a Food Stamp Unit in Port Arthur, Texas. This group of workers nominated her for the honor of Boss of the Year in 1976. She was selected from a field of nominees in the Region 6 area of Texas. She was deeply humbled to receive this honor. After her retirement from the state in 1980 she was asked to return to organize and supervise a new Volunteer Program. She also was asked to assist as a Trinity River Disaster Relief Coordinator in Longview, Texas in the late 80's. While living in Henderson she did volunteer work with the Pink Ladies of ETMC and also with Hospice.

One of her favorite hobbies was yard work. She loved landscaping her yard. In the past twenty years she has planted more than 300 azaleas and bridal wreaths to go with her beautiful natural dogwoods and redbuds. She always was excited for decorating her home for Christmas for her family to enjoy. She loved vacationing with friends and family throughout the United States. She always impressed her sons and grandsons with her knowledge of sports. She loved watching football, basketball, and baseball on television. She could discuss the games and players adeptly. Most of all she valued her quiet devotional time each morning with her cup of coffee.

Mom was preceded in death by her parents, Cynthia and John Gage; brothers Thomas, Bill and Hayes Gage; sisters Ethel Tolly, Juanita Allred and Johnnie Sue Clifton. She lost her beloved husband, Vernon after only 37 years of marriage. More recently she lost her sweet first granddaughter, Kelli Kristin Welch.

She is survived by one brother, Jesse Overton Gage of Henderson, also by her children Max Vernon and wife Beverly Jo Welch of Spring, Texas, Gale Edwin and wife Judy Lynn Welch of Cypress, Texas, daughter Kay Diane Fumuso and husband Albert John of Beaumont, Texas and daughter Donna

Jo Patton and husband Robert Dale of Kenedy, Texas. Her ten grandchildren are Jo Shannon Crowder(Chris), Lauren Ashley Smith, Blake Tyler Welch, Nicole Alexandria Cheramie, Brandi Kay Ford(Jason), Jennifer Renee Bonner(David), Marc Antony Fumuso(Emily), Micah Vernon Patton(Erin), Rachel Diane Bowers(Calvin), and Jonah Robert Patton. She has seventeen great-grandchildren who are: Lilli Katherine Grace Sanders, Cameron Max Crowder, Delaney Jo Crowder, Madison Lynn Smith, Mackenzie Gale Smith, Tyler Patrick Smith, Hunter James Keith, Alexander Paul Cheramie, Jacob Michael Cheramie, Alexandra Camille Ford, Adam Scott Ford, Trace Austin Bonner, Averie Renee Bonner, Broc Cole Bonner, Rix Robert Patton, Hayes Vernon Patton and Brock Kenedy Bowers. She is survived by many nieces and nephews whom she all loved dearly.

The family gratefully expresses their thanks for the wonderful care given by ETMC and Hospice employees of Tyler, Texas.

If desired memorial contributions may be made to The Hospice of East Texas at 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701; or to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, 5433 Westheimer St., suite 300, Houston, Tx 77056.

Condolences may be made online at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Welch Cemetery

CR 368  
Henderson, TX 75654

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

OCT 1. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

BF

“ *My Mawmaw was my best friend and more. I never doubted her love for me. She taught me so much and I will teach my children the same things. If I could be just a quarter of the woman she was, I'd be doing awesome. That's my goal, to follow in her footsteps.*

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**Brandi Ford** - October 04, 2016 at 04:48 PM

LP

“ *Aunt Kat was sweet and beautiful, inside and out. She had the softest voice and always made you feel special and always glad to see you.*



*I passed by her house a couple of years ago, Kay and Donna had just arrived for a visit. I don't usually stop by without calling, but I turned around and went back and had the nicest visit with Aunt Kat and the girls. I'm so glad I did, that's the last time I saw her.*

*She really has such a rich legacy. So many friends and such a big close family. I see all the love in the smiling faces. I have always loved my Aunt Kat and will hold her dear in my heart. All my love to the family, I am praying for you.*

*Love, Linda Peck (Uncle Bill's oldest daughter)*

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**Linda Peck** - October 01, 2016 at 10:36 AM

JB

“ John Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katherine Welch



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**John Brown** - September 29, 2016 at 05:43 PM

KF

*Thank you John for thinking of mother. We will miss her dearly, however I will always cherish the memories of taking care of her the last three months.*

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**Kay Welch Fumuso** - October 08, 2016 at 08:23 AM

MM

“ O my sweet, sweet Katherine--how I wish I could see you again. You must have heard a group of us talking about you last week--it was all good, naturally. You are one of the very few people I would honestly describe as sweet and good. You and I were such a match: you--thoughtful, calming, constantly cheerful and loving; me--bombastic, sarcastic, loud, and spontaneous. I totally loved being in your presence and we got along outstandingly. Your Henderson house so fit you and I know how glad you are that you will still be near it--only now you'll be sleeping with Vernon again.

*May the Lord support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in his mercy, may he give us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at last. Father, we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*I love you, Katherine.  
Marsha*

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**Marsha Marshall** - September 29, 2016 at 04:37 PM

KF

*Thank you Marsha for your sweet legacy to mom. She truly loved you all. I will miss her dearly, however I will cherish the last three months taking care of her at her home. She wanted to be at home to pass and my sister and I carried out her wishes.*

**Kay Welch Fumuso** - October 08, 2016 at 08:30 AM

JF

*“ Katherine and I had a very unique meeting in the road which led to a wonderful friendship between the two of us. She was a very special lady and we had many good visits over the years. I will truly miss her and her wisdom. . My love and prayers come to each of you in the following days. May God bless all of you. Your friend, Jane Fahle.*



**Jane Fahle** - September 28, 2016 at 06:35 PM

KF

*Jane, your sweet message about your and mom's friendship and meeting in the road outside of your gate was truly a godly meeting! We will always cherish your love, kindness and friendship with mom, Gale, Donna and I. Please do not hesitate calling me if you need anything or a place to stay when you come to Beaumont! Much Love, Kay*

**Kay Welch Fumuso** - October 08, 2016 at 08:39 AM

MB

*“ Marion Bockwisch lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katherine Welch*



**Marion Bockwisch** - September 28, 2016 at 04:00 PM

DD

“ Rest in peace, Mawmaw. I will never forget all the times Kelli and I would drive out from college in Nacogdoches to spend time with you. We couldn't wait to arrive, stayed long, and always departed feeling full of love and joy. And of course, a full belly. You took me in as your own, and I am forever grateful for knowing what it meant to have our "Mawmaw" watching out for and taking care of us. You and my best friend Kelli will forever remain in my heart.



Dian Daniel - September 28, 2016 at 01:44 PM

KF

Thank you Dian, what a sweet message and very true of your and Kelli's visits with Mawmaw. Much Love, Aunt Kay

Kay Welch Fumuso - October 08, 2016 at 08:44 AM

A(

“ I will never forget all the times visiting my great aunt Kat. All the flowers in bloom and the cute little house...we always went by after visiting with my great grandmother (mama gage). I was so young just a little girl. Memories I hold dear to my heart forever❤️



Amanda Lamb (Tolly) - September 28, 2016 at 01:24 PM

SW

“ Aunt Kat was the most beautiful person inside and out! She was a strong independent lady with amazing heart! She always made you feel like you were the most important person in the room when she was talking to you. Never an unkind word about anyone and that sweet sense of humor!!! These are just a few things I can say about this wonderful lady that will be terribly missed by me and many, many others! ----Shellie Wiggins, Frank St.Clair's daughter

Shellie Wiggins - September 28, 2016 at 12:54 PM

KF

Shellie, what a sweet message to mom! I must say she loved each of you dearly! Keep in touch with us as we loved you all too!

Kay Welch Fumuso - October 08, 2016 at 08:48 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mrs. Katherine Welch.



September 28, 2016 at 12:03 PM

LT

“ Lynda Tate lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katherine Welch



Lynda Tate - September 28, 2016 at 10:43 AM

LT

*I will always remember that my grandparents, Ezra & Erma Welch, always had glowing things to say of Katherine. I always thought she was very pretty and her personality was very sweet and endearing. My prayers are with her family. Many people will miss her, but there's no doubt she has a special place in Heaven.*

**Lynda Tate** - September 28, 2016 at 10:49 AM

KF

*Thank you Lynda for your sweet message about mom, she loved everyone and we will miss her dearly! My sister and I will cherish the past three months caring for mom. She was a mess in her older years telling Donna and I many stories of life in East Texas! Blessings, Kay*

**Kay Welch Fumuso** - October 08, 2016 at 08:55 AM

PA

“ Patricia Allred lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katherine Welch



**Patricia Allred** - September 28, 2016 at 08:14 AM

DS

“ Prayers to my family, she was a lovely and most cherished woman.

**Dee Stanaland** - September 28, 2016 at 07:28 AM

MO

“ Mark Beki (Gage) Orsack lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katherine Welch



**Mark Beki (Gage) Orsack** - September 28, 2016 at 12:01 AM

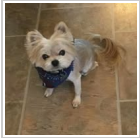
MO

“ *I love you. You will forever be close to my heart.*



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**Mark and Beki (Gage) Orsack** - September 27, 2016 at 11:58 PM



“ *Rest In Peace Mrs. Welch! You were my first supervisor and the best supervisor I ever had! You were the sweetest and kindest person. Prayers going out to your family.*



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**Trish Bonsall** - September 27, 2016 at 11:03 PM

BG

“ *Brenda & Graham lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katherine Welch*



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**Brenda & Graham** - September 27, 2016 at 10:56 PM

CL

“ *We loved raising our boys next door to Katherine in Nederland. She was a grandmother to them and a blessing to both Mike and I. Praying for your family. Cindy Laird*

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**Cindy Laird** - September 27, 2016 at 09:19 PM