



## Mrs. Leatha D. Hughes

December 8, 1933 - October 1, 2023

Leatha Verna (Dial) Hughes, 89, passed away peacefully on October 1, 2023, in Jasper, Texas. She was a woman of remarkable strength and unwavering love for her family.

Leatha was born December 8, 1933, to John Gordon and Myrtle “Dessie” (Crisman) Dial in New London, Texas. Leatha was the youngest of four children having three older brothers. The family experienced the tragic loss of her brother, Travis, in the New London School explosion in March of 1937.

Leatha graduated from West Rusk High School in New London in 1952. She continued her lifetime of learning at West Texas College in El Paso where she met and married her husband of 45 years, James M. Hughes, Sr. They married on November 6, 1954 and were blessed with four children, James Jr., Steven, Kay Jean and Joel. As a military family, they traveled the globe, creating cherished memories together.

Leatha was a member of Bishop’s Chapel Church in Jasper and active in the many reunions of the New London School Explosion. She was an avid reader and enjoyed an afternoon with a good book. While living in Houston, she was able to participate in many of her grandchildren’s activities.

Leatha was preceded in death by her husband James M. Hughes, Sr. and her three brothers John, Charles “Moco” and Travis.

She is survived by her sons Jim (Shirley), Steven (Dena), Joel (Teresa) and daughter Kay Jean Ruckel. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A traditional graveside service will be held to honor and celebrate Leatha's remarkable life. Family and friends will gather at Lakewood Memorial Park in Henderson, Texas, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, 2023, to pay their respects and bid farewell to a beloved soul. Interment will follow under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home in Henderson.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2023 at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

Leatha will forever be remembered for her strength, love, and unwavering devotion to her family. Her legacy will continue to inspire and guide those who had the privilege of knowing her. May her soul find eternal peace.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Lakewood Memorial Park

Hwy 64 and 323  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Graveside Service

OCT 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Park  
Hwy 64 and 323  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ *My dear aunt Leatha was as loving and warm as you can find in life. She was a great mom and cared about her brothers' children, too. She could talk about anything: history, people, family and politics.. certainly politics! She saw a lot of change in her life and never shied away from discussing anything with me. I never heard her say a mean word about anybody, either. What a great lady and I shall miss her terribly.*

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**Mauri Shuler** - October 06, 2023 at 11:34 PM

DW

“ Aunt Leatha was the most caring and thoughtful of persons. She was always attentive and willing to help. Among our fond memories is a "phone call from Leatha" we received during one of those chaotic and fluid times where there was uncertainty in the air (Arab Spring).

*Leatha - "Hello Waco",*

*Waco - "Hi Aunt Leatha",*

*Leatha - "Where are you",*

*Waco - "In Cairo",*

*Leatha - "Are you OK?",*

*Waco - "Yes Ma'am",*

*Leatha - "Why are you still there? Do you need money?",*

*Waco - "No Ma'am, we are going to the airport now".*

*When Leatha disconnected I looked at my wife and said, that was Aunt Leatha, we need to go. We took off within hours of Aunt Leatha's call.*

*I had learned early in life that when Aunt Leatha called it was important.*

*Love you Aunt Leatha*

*David Waco*

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David Waco - October 04, 2023 at 01:51 AM

PE

“ I knew Leatha Hughes through her son Joel and his wife Teresa. I used to go to their home and play games with them on certain occasions at holidays. Leatha was there. It was very obvious that Leatha loved her children and grandchildren. She was a fun and an intelligent person to be around. I had the honor to talk to her in the phone several weeks ago on the phone after she had moved back to Jasper, Texas. I know she is with the Lord because I ask her family if she knew the Lord Jesus and I was told yes. She is in the presence of the Lord and has no more pain, or tears, around people she loved and that love her. She also is seeing the face and presence of her Savior, Jesus. Leatha, I will see you one day.

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**Penny Eckel** - October 03, 2023 at 01:02 PM

KH

Thank you for sharing Penny, I know she thought highly of you 😊

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**kay Jean Hughes** - October 03, 2023 at 09:05 PM