



Vivian Virginia Strong

October 29, 1929 - April 28, 2023

Vivian Virginia Strong, more affectionately known as Mama Ginger, aged 93, passed peacefully away on Friday evening on April 28th, 2023, surrounded by family and then privately laid to rest on Monday, May 1, 2023, in the Strong Cemetery located in the Churchhill Community in Rusk County, Texas, with Dwain Knight and J. Paul Nelson officiating.

Virginia was born on October 20th, 1929, in Rusk County, Texas, to James Henry West and Mae Hollingsworth West. She had two siblings named Sylvia Louise West Walker and Billy Gene West. Virginia was raised in a very loving nurturing home where her parents also took in and helped raise other family members' children. She carried those same attributes and compassion throughout her own life.

Virginia attended the Henderson ISD schools and was always an exemplary student throughout her school years and was even an all star volleyball player in high school. Virginia received her cosmetology license after her high school graduation in 1946 and continued as a beautician for a couple of years in Henderson, Texas.

Virginia married the love of her life, Tom Mack Strong on April 23, 1948, in Rusk County, Texas. After discharging from the Army, Mack soon began working for Brown & Root Company and they lived in several different cities in

Louisiana, during his tenure with that company, until eventually moving back home to Henderson, Texas, to raise their children, Glenda Strong Nelson and Terry Mack Strong and to be near their immediate families. They remained in Henderson until the end of their lives. They were both born and raised in Rusk County, Texas, Virginia in the Good Springs Community and Mack in the Churchill Community.

Virginia began her bookkeeping career employed with Harold Cooke Accounting Services and later also worked at the Dorothy Hines Accounting Firm. In approximately 1969 Virginia began her employment with R. T. Smith Welding and Press and worked there as a bookkeeper for 45 years. She was 85 years old when she retired. After retirement, she spent most of her days enjoying being with her family. Virginia and Mack stated throughout the years that the happiest times of their lives were when their grandchildren came along and years later followed the great grandchildren. Virginia loved watching her great-granddaughters, Bryleigh and Macy Nelson, play softball whenever she got the chance. If she could not attend she wanted to hear about their games play by play. She loved spending a lot of time with her great-grandson Jace Nelson in whatever activity he enjoyed. Jace, Bryleigh, and Macy are the children of her grandson, Nickolas Jace Nelson. She was overjoyed at the arrival of her fourth great-grandchild, Thomas Oliver Nelson, son of her grandson, Jeffrey Paul Nelson, and kept up with him mostly through video chats because they live in Austin, Texas. She looked forward to visits with them whenever they were in town so she could play with Oliver.

Virginia was such a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Her greatest joys were taking care of her family and catering to their every need. Throughout the years she continuously demonstrated her love for her children, Glenda and Terry. She loved to cook and made the best cakes, pies, and candies for her family. Her potato soup cured any type of illness and her spaghetti, pinto beans, and fried cornbread were always a

special Saturday treat. She was always a cheerful, graceful, and compassionate person as well as a woman of strong faith. She loved her family and her life long friends especially from her church, St. Paul's Methodist Church in Henderson, Texas. She adopted her grandson Jace's dog named Polar Bear a/k/a PoPo, and from then on they were inseparable. She adored PoPo and PoPo could always be found in Mama Ginger's lap.

Virginia is preceded in death by her loving husband, Tom Mack Strong, her parents, James Henry West and Mae Hollingsworth West, as well as her two siblings Louise West Walker and Billy Gene West, and a grandson Christopher Strong.

Virginia is survived by her beloved daughter and husband, Glenda and J. Paul Nelson, her beloved son, Terry Mack Strong, beloved grandsons, Jeffrey Paul Nelson and wife, Selena, and Nickolas Jace Nelson and wife, Courtney, and beloved great-grandchildren, Jace, Bryleigh, Macy and Oliver Nelson, and bonus great-granddaughter, Sophie Tyler, nieces, nephews and other family members.

The family would like to give a special thanks to a dear friend, Monica Ford, of Henderson, Texas, for her love and compassion as well as the staff at Hospice of East Texas in Tyler, Texas, for the care and attention shown to Mama Ginger.

Even as we say goodbye, we lift up your life as an inspiration of love, grace, and wisdom. You will be forever missed.

A register book will be available to sign at the funeral home from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wednesday.

John Chapter 14:1-3

1] "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? [3] And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Chris and Linda King lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Chris Linda King - May 09, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ Barbara Bangert lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Barbara Bangert - May 08, 2023 at 07:53 PM

MG

“ Missy & Steve Green lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Missy Hacker & Steve Green - May 07, 2023 at 09:05 PM

TR

“ Ted Cheryl Reed lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Ted and Cheryl Reed - May 06, 2023 at 08:30 AM

MC

“ *Melissa Clayton lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Melissa Rogers Clayton - May 05, 2023 at 10:11 PM

RG

“ *Rebecca Glass lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Rebecca Riley Glass - May 05, 2023 at 07:20 PM

WC

“ *WT Kay Castleberry lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



WT and Kay Castleberry - May 05, 2023 at 04:04 PM

BH

“ *Brent Hale lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Brent Hale - May 05, 2023 at 09:21 AM

BB

“ *Brandy Bridges lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Brandy Bridges - May 04, 2023 at 08:36 PM

DS

“ *Glenda and family, I am so very sorry for the loss of sweet Virginia. There are are just no words. So many wonderful memories we've all shared. Mother and I are sending prayers for you during this very difficult time.
We love you,
Debbie Stanley Stafford and Norma Stanley*

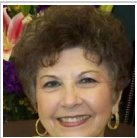
Debbie Stafford - May 04, 2023 at 05:16 PM

DC

“ *We used to have sweet talks and laughter. May you rest in knowing that Virginia is with our heavenly father.*



Donna k Crawford - May 04, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ *Ellie Glenn lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Ellie Glenn - May 04, 2023 at 09:20 AM

ST

“ *Mama Ginger and Daddy Mack are together again in heaven. We loved your mama & daddy. Glenda, we are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you, Terry and all the grands. I know how she loved her family, and that love was extended to Curt and me. There was never a time we weren't made to feel welcome in their home. We love y'all.*

Stacy - May 04, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Glenda I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was such a sweet kind lady and I know you will all miss her so much. You are in our hearts and prayers.*

Linda Smith - May 03, 2023 at 11:57 PM

KF

“ *Kay Farley
Glenda, I'm so sorry for your loss. Your mom was always so sweet and always smiling.*



Kay Farley - May 03, 2023 at 11:09 PM

SH

“ *Sue HENDERSON lit a candle in memory of
Vivian Strong*



Sue HENDERSON - May 03, 2023 at 11:35 AM

NH

“ Nancy Herrington lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Nancy Herrington - May 03, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ Donna Aaron lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Donna Aaron - May 02, 2023 at 10:52 PM

AL

“ Annette Lochridge lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Annette Lochridge - May 02, 2023 at 10:09 PM

TC

“ Tony Anita Cavaliere lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Tony and Anita Cavaliere - May 02, 2023 at 08:26 PM

MW

“ Mike Walters lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Mike Walters - May 02, 2023 at 07:40 PM

LR

“ Linda Rogers lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Linda Rogers - May 02, 2023 at 07:15 PM

SR

“ Suzanne Jim Reed lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Suzanne & Jim Reed - May 02, 2023 at 07:13 PM

TE

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Glenda and all the family.



Trish Jones Eckart - May 02, 2023 at 05:34 PM

MS

“ *Monica Bob Sanders lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Monica and Bob Sanders - May 02, 2023 at 05:22 PM

SD

“ *Sherri Davis lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Sherri Davis - May 02, 2023 at 04:08 PM

GW

“ *Gary Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Gary Wilkerson - May 02, 2023 at 03:38 PM

DC

“ I knew Ms. Virginia for a few short years. She was so sweet and friendly. The last time I remember her being at St. Paul's was a few years back she was asked to come to our Ladies Night Circle and Glenda had brought her to our meeting and we all enjoyed the meeting and her so much. Before she had declining health, she would call me every week to see about her church. She worried about our little church. We will miss you Ms. Virginia but your beautiful spirit will live on forever here at St. Paul's Methodist Church-Henderson.

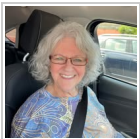


David & Kathy Chapman - May 02, 2023 at 03:29 PM

BM

Glenda so sorry for your loss. Know you will miss her. I remember running into you and your mom several times. She always seem to enjoy being with you. Becky Miley

Becky Miley - May 02, 2023 at 11:58 PM



“ My prayers for your comfort and peace during this time of grief and sadness. I will hold you all in my heart. Stephanie Green Osteen

Stephanie Osteen - May 02, 2023 at 12:39 PM

CN

“ Clay & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - May 02, 2023 at 12:09 PM

JT

“ *Jill Turner lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Jill D Turner - May 02, 2023 at 11:29 AM

MG

“ *Virginia was a favorite friend. She was always sweet, caring, and gracious in every way. After retiring we lost track with you all. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Much love...Mark & Nancy*

Mark & Nancy Gibson - May 02, 2023 at 10:53 AM

BP

“ *Betty Ponder lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Betty Ponder - May 02, 2023 at 10:23 AM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jolley lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Barbara Jolley - May 02, 2023 at 10:15 AM

LT

“ *My sympathy is with your family Glenda...I did not personally know your mom but I know she raised a sweet daughter and I realize the pain of losing a mom! You and your family are in my prayers! LaNell Toon*

LaNell Toon - May 02, 2023 at 10:13 AM

JS

“ *Prayers for peace and comfort during this difficult time.*



Jesse & Genna Stewart - May 02, 2023 at 09:42 AM

NR

“ *Nelwyn Richardson lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



Nelwyn Richardson - May 02, 2023 at 09:20 AM

PP

“ *pud patterson lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



pud patterson - May 02, 2023 at 09:16 AM

CW

“ *I'm sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. She was a sweet lady and will be truly missed. Praying for comfort for all of you.*



Cyndi Walker - May 02, 2023 at 09:08 AM

BG

“ *Praying for peace and comfort. Mrs. Strong always had a smile and a kind word.*
Bonnie Geddie



Bonnie Geddie - May 02, 2023 at 07:46 AM

DG

“ *doyle nancy graham lit a candle in memory of Vivian Strong*



doyle & nancy graham - May 01, 2023 at 10:26 PM

SM

“ *Precious lady. My sincere condolences in the loss of Ms. Virginia. Prayers to all the family*
Sarah Moake

Sarah Moake - May 01, 2023 at 07:28 PM