



## Mary Frances Rowlette

March 10, 1919 - July 13, 2019

Mary Frances Wheeler Rowlette passed away in Red Oak, Texas on Saturday, July 13th, 2019, at the age of 100. She was born on March 10, 1919, in Trenton, Texas to John Anderson Wheeler, a Methodist minister and circuit rider, and Frances Lillian Terry Wheeler. Her parents instilled in her a strong connection to her family and her Christian faith, and it was upon this foundation that the rest of her life was built.

Mary Frances, her sister Lucille, and her three brothers Wilburn, Marvin, and John lived in several towns across the Texas Panhandle during their early years, and she briefly lived with her aunt and uncle in Oklahoma City before graduating from Lamesa High School in 1936. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from McMurry College in May 1941 and began teaching in Whon, Texas the following fall. She taught in various school districts around Texas until moving to Lubbock in 1952, where she lived and taught junior high until her retirement in 1983.

While in Whon for her first teaching job, she met Grover Rowlette, who was visiting from Randolph Field in San Antonio. Mary Frances and Grover quickly developed a loving relationship, and they were married in an intimate ceremony at the Randolph Field chapel on October 17, 1942. Mary Frances traveled to Denver, Colorado, with Grover while he trained at Lowry Field and remained there after he deployed to England with the Eighth Air Force,

returning to Lubbock when Grover was deployed to Korea in 1952. Following Grover's return from Korea, the couple adopted their older son, James Michael, on November 10, 1953. Four years later, on November 4, 1957, Mary Frances gave birth to her second son, Robert Timothy. Mary Frances and Grover lived together in Lubbock until Grover passed away in January 1997 after 54 years of marriage, and Mary Frances remained in Lubbock until 2014, when she moved to the Dallas area.

Mary Frances was an active and devoted member of the Methodist Church her entire life, and has belonged to the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Women Educators since 1962 where she served as state president from 1979-1981. She was predeceased by her husband Grover, her son James Michael, and her four siblings, and is survived by her son Tim and his wife Cheryl, of Midlothian, Texas; her granddaughter Kacie, of Fort Worth, Texas; and her grandson Jarrod, of Midlothian, Texas, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Her memorial service will be held at 10:30 on Saturday, July 20th at Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock with a graveside service immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Ovilla United Methodist Church 664 Building Fund in Ovilla, Texas.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Mary Frances Rowlette please visit our Sympathy Store

# Cemetery Details

## City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 E 31st Street  
Lubbock, TX 79404

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **19**. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Sanders Funeral Home  
1420 Main Street  
Lubbock, TX 79401  
(806) 763-6433  
director@sandersfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

JUL **20**. 1:00 PM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel  
1420 Main Street  
Lubbock, TX 79401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Rowlette.*



---

July 19, 2019 at 12:25 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Rowlette.*



---

July 17, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ - *The AMT Team purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Frances Rowlette.*



---

- **The AMT Team** - July 17, 2019 at 03:54 PM

RM

“ It is my honor to know Mary Rowlette through the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. As a past state president, she helped lead a training session for incoming area coordinators and committee chairs several years ago. I was the lucky one to receive a mirror from her as a reminder to reflect on the work that we did. I still have the mirror and thought about her while attending our state convention in Arlington in June wondering how she was doing. What a gracious lady and outstanding educator and leader! May she rest in peace, and may the family know that she inspired a number of us. In sympathy,  
Rosemary Morrow, Alpha Chapter  
Austin

---

**Rosemary Morrow** - July 16, 2019 at 07:02 PM