



Sylvia Nell Burnett

April 26, 1942 - May 13, 2026

Sylvia Nell Burnett, a beloved mother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2026, at the age of 84. Born on April 26, 1942, in Whiteflat, Texas, Sylvia was a proud graduate of Monterey High School, class of 1960. On March 10, 1967, she married the love of her life, John Richard Burnett, in Lubbock, Texas, and together they built a life filled with love and cherished memories.

Sylvia had a fulfilling career as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell, where she devoted 14 years of service in the telecommunications industry. She was a dedicated member of the Vandelia Church of Christ and found joy in her faith and community.

An avid traveler, Sylvia explored many places, creating beautiful memories along the way. Her heart was deeply marked by the loss of her daughter, Leah Suzanne Burnett, who passed away on September 2, 1995. Despite this profound sorrow, Sylvia continued to embrace life with resilience and compassion.

A true Texas Tech Athletics fan, she particularly enjoyed cheering on the Lady Raiders. For the last decade of her life, Sylvia resided at Ventura Place, where she actively engaged in the community, forming lasting friendships through games and social activities.

Sylvia is survived by her sister, Winnie Harkness; her brother, Larry Cunningham and wife, Julie; sister-in law, Mary Ann Cunningham; sister-in-law, Sharon Bayne and a host of nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at Sanders Funeral Home on May 22, 2026, at 9:30-10:30a.m. Following the visitation, a memorial service will be held at Sanders Memorial Chapel at 10:30 a.m., where family and friends will come together to honor and celebrate Sylvia's life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Leah Burnett Scholarship in care of Texas State University Development Foundation, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666, a fitting tribute to Sylvia's enduring love for her daughter and her commitment to education and community.

Sylvia Nell Burnett will be remembered for her kindness, her love for her family, and the joy she brought to those around her. May her spirit continue to inspire and uplift all who knew her.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her husband, John Richard Burnett, her daughter, Leah Suzanne Burnett; her parents, Sylven and Iva Lee Cunningham, sisters, Rheba Cunningham, Velma Gillespie and Juanita Haney; brothers, Homer Carl Cunningham, Lowell Cunningham, L.D. Cunningham, Clayton Cunningham, Loyd Cunningham and S.M. Cunningham.

Cemetery Details

City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 E 31st Street
Lubbock, TX 79404

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAY **22**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Sylvia Nell Burnett



Sanders Funeral Home - May 22 at 10:20 AM

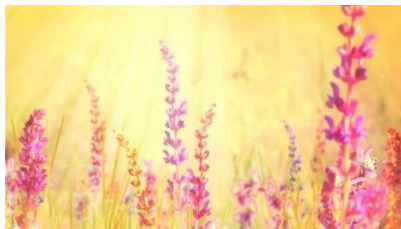
WS

With everyone sitting on one side, why wasn't the floor mike on that side. I could not hear the sharing of the one speaking.

Weldon J Shuman - May 22 at 05:14 PM



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sylvia Nell Burnett



Sanders Funeral Home - May 19 at 11:07 AM

CB

“ I grew up like a sister to Sivie instead of a niece. She was part of my childhood and then my adulthood. She was fun, generous and a super example for me. With a strong faith in God, Sivie handled the death of her only child and husband with grace and faith. I always knew I wanted to be as strong as Sivie. She loved her family and the Lord. She was always there for those she loved, and she made a lasting mark on my life and many other lives as well. Sivie will always be in my heart. I will miss her immeasurably. Love, love, love. Cynthia

Cynthia A Beal - May 19 at 02:49 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Sylvia Nell Burnett.



May 19 at 11:02 AM

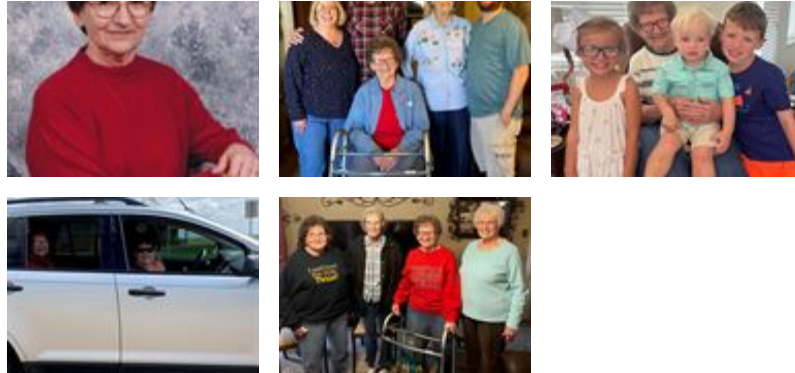


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sylvia Nell Burnett.

May 19 at 11:02 AM



“ 74 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sanders Funeral Home - May 19 at 10:46 AM

HT

“ I am so sorry to hear of Sylvia's passing. She was one of my mother's first friends (and neighbor!) when my mom moved into Ventura Place. It was so kind of Sylvia to be so welcoming. We would often gift her a box of Queen Anne Cordial Cherries (a Sylvia favorite!) for her birthday and Christmas. Now I will always remember her when I come across a box. You will be missed, rest in peace dear Sylvia ❤️

Hollis Tyde - May 18 at 02:08 PM

PJ

“ Peggy Johnson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sylvia Nell Burnett.



Peggy Johnson - May 16 at 04:02 PM

PJ

“ Peggy Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sylvia Nell Burnett.

Peggy Johnson - May 16 at 04:02 PM

PJ

“ Sylvia had many friends at Ventura Place and we are sad to learn of her passing. She was an active member of the community for many years. I think her favorite activity was bean bag baseball. She loved it when her team won and or when she scored a home run. And she loved chocolate covered cherries. My condolences to her family. I am sorry for your loss and mine.

Peggy Johnson

Peggy Johnson - May 16 at 03:57 PM