



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 loving 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

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

Sanders Funeral Home

Memorial Service

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

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401