

# Obituaries



**Claude Ray**

Claude Wesley Ray, 95, of Hart passed away Monday, May 4, 2015, in Olton. Graveside services were Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at Hart Cemetery at 11a.m. with Rev. John Synder of Gardendale Church of Christ in Gardendale, Texas, officiating. Arrangements were handled by Colonial Funeral Home in Dimmitt.

Claude was born March 14, 1920, in O'Brien, Texas to Evans and Mattie Ray. Claude was a resident of Castro County for 62 years. He married Margie Ray in 1941; they were married 75 years. She preceded him in death on Feb. 11, 2014. He was a farmer most of his life. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Hart, where he served as a deacon. He was a member of Hart Lions Club. Claude enjoyed doing volunteer work and service work for his community,

and he enjoyed playing dominoes.

He is survived by his son, Clifford Ray and his wife Debbie of Midland; three grandchildren, Sharlie Ray of Odessa, Jessica Nolan of Borger and Lori Hollums of Granbury; eight great-grandchildren, Levi Price, Alexis Price, Dylan Hollums, Madison Ray, Gage Nolan, Makenzie Hollums, Jared Nelson and Carson Hollums.

Claude is also preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, twin brother Clyde Ray and Ralph Ray; and a nephew, Tommy Ray.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Hart Cemetery Association, PO Box 215, Hart, Texas 79043.

You may go online and sign the guestbook at [www.colonialfuneralhome.org](http://www.colonialfuneralhome.org)



**Congratulations,  
Grads!**

**Weather**

Neoma Williams  
U.S. Weather Observer

	Hi	Lo	Pr
Thursday	52	44	
Friday	52	44	.31
Saturday	66	50	.06
Sunday	69	51	.03
Monday	79	51	
Tuesday	72	49	

May moisture.....5.67  
2015 to date .....9.01  
2014 for same period .....4.43

## A Small Town Texas Funeral

**PLAIN ENGLISH**

**By Mary Jane McKinney**



**LeNora Jo Thompson**

LeNora Jo (Jo-Jo) Thompson, 70, of Hart Camp, Texas, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, passed away on April 8, 2015.

The funeral service for the former Hart resident was held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2015, at First Baptist Church of Littlefield with Pastor David Azam officiating. Interment was in Littlefield Memorial Park in the Masonic Garden.

Jo was born to the late W. T. and Marjorie Jo Sanders on November 25, 1944, in Dimmitt, Texas. She married William (Bill) A. Thompson, Jr. on September 2, 1967, in Hart, Texas. They were the proud owners of Triple Arrow Ranch in eastern Lamb County, on which they resided.

She was a devout Christian, a great teacher and an encourager. She graduated from Hart High School in 1963. She earned a B. S. and M. S. from Texas Tech University. She taught 32 years, 31 of those in Lubbock ISD. She taught four years at Dunbar High School and the remainder as a gifted elementary P.E. and classroom teacher at Roscoe Wilson Elementary and Tubbs Elementary. She also worked as camp counselor at Camp Waldemar.

She was an active member of the Daughters of the American

ing with a walker, cane or wheelchair. The weather is rarely perfect. Texas cemeteries are typically hot or freezing cold, and almost always windy. Mourners need to sit in comfort during the service in a church or funeral home. Churches and funeral homes also provide music that is soothing and inspirational.

*Appropriate Service.* The woman who died was a lifelong Baptist. What she got was an Episcopal funeral. Not good. The young priest did an admirable job of reading Bible verses selected by the son, and we got to recite the Lord's Prayer. What was missing was a brief biography of the deceased or any words at all about her.

Typically, the officiating clergy read from the official obituary. That brings up another problem...

*The Obituary.* Obituaries, though written by family members, become official records. They establish data on one's birth and death dates, marriage, children, and the deceased's lineage and life. In the case of our friend, her obituary did not contain her birth date or place of birth, where she died or anything at all about her life. The mourners knew that she had been married to her childhood sweetheart for 62 years. She had been a member of the same Baptist church her whole life. She taught Sunday School and was active in her church, the local school and our community. Her obituary was vague and sketchy—and permanent.

*The Post-Funeral Gathering.* In the case of our friend, there was no get-together after the service. We stood in the heat and the wind and visited at the cemetery; then each of us went home. Typically, we would all adjourn to the Community Center or a church hall for a sumptuous "covered-dish" feast that always features 10 different kinds of Jello, potato salad, continued to Page 3

A recent funeral I attended had a big turnout for an old-time resident who was born in our town, married in our town, and died in our town at the age of 85. A large crowd arrived early at the graveside service to commemorate the life and death of our neighbor and friend. We had expectations of a Texas funeral. What we got was far from it.

The woman's son had lived far away his whole life and had forgotten about the Texas style send-off. Here's where he went wrong . . .

*Graveside versus Church or Funeral Home.* Elderly people attend the funerals of their elderly friends. Graveside services mean long walks on uneven ground, not to mention navigat-

Revolution. She served ten years on the Lamb County Historical Commission.

She loved the Lord, her family, the outdoors, sports, cooking and horses. She was a superb basketball player, soccer player and swimmer.

She is survived by her husband; her daughter, Dawn LeNora Thompson of Austin; her son, Anson Clark Thompson and daughter-in-law, Laurie of Spade, Texas; and a sister, Judith Ann Warren of Willis, Texas. She has five lovely grandchildren: Britnee and Ashley Kimey of Austin and Alyssa, Clark and Elizabeth Grace Thompson of Spade.

Periodicals postage paid at Hart, Texas 79043. Publication No. 025-016.

Mailing address to which undeliverable copies or change of address notices are to be sent to:

The Pulse  
P.O. Box 350  
Hart, Texas 79043

Failure of the subscriber to notify change of address will result in corresponding loss of subscription time.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Hart Beat will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Publisher.

**Neoma Williams**  
**Publisher-Editor**

Phone: 806/938-2429

Fax: 806/938-2216

Cell: 647-7419

email:

[hbeat@amaonline.com](mailto:hbeat@amaonline.com)

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space permits. Letters should be personally written and signed. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters will be edited for length and libelous content. Letters endorsing candidates are considered advertising.

