

Jewell Todd Fletcher Tryon

Jewell Orez Todd Fletcher Tryon was born to proud parentage of the late Julia and Baker Todd on May 28, 1916, in Crockett, Texas. She was reared in the Halls Bluff Community.

At an early age, she united with the Pleasant Grove CME Church and remained a faithful and devoted member until death. Her faith in God never wavered, and prayer was a constant part of her life. She was a bible scholar and active participant in Sunday School. Jewell was a lover of music and hosted many gospel musicals during her lifetime to support her church and other community activities.

She attended public schools in Crockett, Texas and attended Mary Allen College. She was very strong debater and participated and won many competitions. She was also known for her extemporaneous speaking and poetry from her favorite poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Many were blessed throughout their lives with her enactment of many of these poems.

In 1938, she joined in holy matrimony with Tallie Fletcher, and this union produced eight children and lasted until Tallie's death in 1969. Together, they created a home that was always full of love, laughter, children (young and old) and friends. She later married Jim Tryon in 1974. Mother Dear and Mrs. Jewell as she was affectionately known was a loving sister, mother, grandmother, aunt, friend, coworker and neighbor.

She was a member of many civic and professional organizations, including the Court of Calanthe, Pearl Court #96 where she served as Worthy Counselor, Secretary and Treasurer, Order of the Eastern Star,



Jewell Todd Fletcher Tryon

where she served in many capacities. Jewell served on the Board of Directors for the Houston County Senior Citizens Center and was a founding member of the Grapeland Socialites Club.

Jewell was a dietician at the Grapeland Community Memorial Hospital from the day it opened until she retired nearly 25 years later. Mother Dear had many talents and hobbies, including entertaining in her home, cooking, gardening, sewing, and participating in her children and other children in community activities and programs. Many of Mother Dear's daily visitors were young people who were the recipients of bags of candy, fruit and nuts, sometimes to the dismay of their parents.

Education and children were the cornerstone of her life, and she and her late husband Tallie sacrificed much to ensure that all seven children received a college education (they had three in college at the same time). All of her life she encouraged and supported young people in getting the best education possible and doing the best they could.

Preceding her in death were an infant daughter, Geraldine, her husbands Tallie Fletcher and Jim Tryon, her parents, Julia and Baker Todd, sisters, Clara Berry, Bennie Pruitt,

Sylvia Dean Woods, Wilsie Robbins, two brothers Melvin Todd and Alvin Todd, two special nephews Wonder Lee Willis and Roy Willis.

Mother Dear departed this life on December 15, 2007 at East Texas Medical Center in Crockett, Texas. She leaves a great legacy behind! She leaves to cherish her life, love and memory: four sons, Argell (Annie Pearl) of Dallas, Tally (Gwendolyn) of Pearland, Franklin Valentine (Vera) of Lancaster, California, Gerald (Martha) of Houston, Texas; three daughters, Floydia Phillips (Edd Wesley) of Houston, Bennie Humphries (Raymond) of Royse City, Wardaleen Belvin of Austin, Rosie Mintz, (James) of Las Cruces, New Mexico; special niece Ira Cook of Grapeland, Texas, special nephews Robert Willis (Betty) of Houston, Robert Terry (Joyce) of Houston, Texas; 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren; one devoted brother, Port Arthur Todd, Sr. (Emma) of Crockett, one loving sister, Johnnie Lue Estes of Los Angeles, California, one brother-in-law B.L. (Ted) Robbins of Crockett, one sister-in-law Anna Todd of Kansas City, Missouri; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She also leaves to mourn a special friend Edward Grice and two very special caregivers, Gloria Shepherd and LeDona Johnson who provided the best of care during her illness.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 22, 2007 at the First Baptist Church in Grapeland at 11 am with interment at Campbell Cemetery in Crockett, Texas.