

Betty Jean Willis

Graveside services for Betty Jean Willis, 65 of Grapeland were held Tuesday, February 27 in Parker Cemetery with Tom Pelt officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Bailey & Foster Funeral Home, Grapeland.

On Friday, February 23, 2007, the gates of heaven opened for Mrs. Willis at the home of her daughter Melinda McLen Dickson. She was born August 22, 1941 in Waco, Texas, the daughter of Floyd Wesley Pelt, Sr. and Retha Unive Span Pelt. Mrs. Willis grew up in Waco and met the love of her life, Donald Willis and was married on April 4, 1958 in Hubbard, Texas. In the following years they had four children and she obtained certifications as a Certified Activities Director and Certified Food Service Director. She worked in long-term care facilities for the elderly for 25 years and really enjoyed helping the elderly to



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enjoy their lives.

She lived in Saginaw, Texas most of her adult life. Betty and Donald also lived in Bridgeport, Texas before moving to Grapeland eight years ago to live with their daughter, Melinda. The greatest joy in her life was her family.

Mrs. Willis was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Retha Pelt, sister Virginia Ann Farmer, brother Floyd Pelt, Jr. and son-in-law

Jerome (Pete) McLen.

Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Donald Lee Willis of Grapeland; daughter Melinda McLen Dickson and husband Donnie of Grapeland; sons David Willis and wife Jeannie of Crockett, Paul Willis of Grapeland, and John Willis and wife Jennifer of North Dakota; grandchildren Lane Hestilow of Grapeland, Angelica and Kristanna Willis of North Dakota, Chris and Benji Boyd of Lake Dallas and Clinton Heath Fisher of Fort Worth; step-daughter Teresa Wright and husband Gary of Grapeland; great-grandchildren Retha May Hestilow of Keller and Jonathan Lane Hestilow of Fort Worth; brothers Billy Ray Pelt and wife JoAllen of River Oaks, and Doug Pelt and wife Sherry of Crowley; aunt, Melba Yates of Waco; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins including five great nephews and six great nieces.