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**JOYCE THOMASSON  
BALLENGER**

Mrs. Joyce Thomasson Ballenger, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on December 27, 2006 after a sudden heart problem. Mrs. Ballenger was born June 3, 1926 in Crockett to Opal and Russell Thomasson. Mrs. Ballenger graduated from Crockett High School in 1943. Mrs. Ballenger graduated from Baylor University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While at Baylor she was a member and president of the Peer Club. After graduation she taught in Crockett and Henderson, teaching Chemistry and Spanish for three years to students just months younger than her.

While in Henderson, she met Dan Ballenger, the love of her life. Mrs. Ballenger and Dan married on July 15, 1950. Mrs. Ballenger retired to become a homemaker, a job she loved and cherished. Mrs. Ballenger was a member of the Coterie Club, the Evergreen Garden Club, and the Kilgore Music Club. Mrs. Ballenger took an active role in these organizations hosting members in her home, preparing programs and creating floral arrangements. Mrs. Ballenger was also active in the Kilgore public schools which her daughters attended.

Mrs. Ballenger and Dan faithfully attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church for over 50 years. While Dr. Clayton Worden was the pastor and his wife, Jean was organist; Mrs. Ballenger would substitute as the Church organist. When the Wordens retired in the early 1990's Mrs. Ballenger volunteered to play the next Sunday. Mrs. Ballenger has faithfully volunteered as the organist since that Sunday. Mrs. Ballenger truly loved playing and providing special music for the Sunday worship, wedding and funerals.

Mrs. Ballenger loved her family and friends. Mrs. Ballenger delighted in baking cakes, pies and especially cookies to share and filled many cookie jars to take to others and never visited a grandchild without a jar of their favorite cookies.

Survivors include her husband Dan Ballenger, of Kilgore; daughters Brynda and Nancy and their families John and Brynda McNey, of Fort Worth and Dr. Matt and Nancy Roberts, of Crockett; grandchildren John William McNey and Katy McNey, of Fort Worth, Joseph Roberts, of Ann Arbor, Mich. and Joanie Roberts, of Dallas; numerous sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and special friends.

Preceded in death by her parents Opal and Russell Thomasson; and brother Dr. Lyle W. Thomasson.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Joyce Thomasson Ballenger were held Saturday, December 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church in Kilgore with the Reverend Bill Blanks officiating. Mrs. Jean Worden provided the music.

Memorials may be made to the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church, 609 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX. 75662 or charity of choice.

**Radar Funeral Home**