

Irene (Tootsie) LeDoux Hickman

HUNTSVILLE -- Services for Irene (Tootsie) LeDoux Hickman, 85, of Huntsville and formerly of Trinity were held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2003, in the Huntsville Funeral Home.

Burial followed in Mamou, La. at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Mrs. Hickman died on Wednesday, Jan. 15, after a lengthy fight against myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS).

She was born Nov. 16, 1917, in Edgerly, La., the youngest of seven children born to of Homer and Edna Dugas LeDoux. Her father, an oil-field worker, was killed in a work-related accident when she was nearly three and her only brother, Claude, died three months later at the age of 17. Her widowed mother moved the family to Mamou, La., to be closer to her family.

Mrs. Hickman was married on April 21, 1937, to Davis Hickman of Magnolia, Ark. The couple owned and operated a restaurant and movie theater in Mamou, La. and then built and operated a successful restaurant business in Cameron, La.

While in Cameron, they survived Hurricane Audrey, which hit that city in June of 1957, killing 600 people. Following the storm, they moved their family to Trinity and started a small restaurant called the Tosty Freeze. After operating the Trinity business for 10 years, they sold it and moved to Huntsville where their children attended Sam Houston State University.

She was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church in Huntsville and St. Edwards Catholic Church in Athens. Mrs. Hickman also was an avid gardener, an accomplished oil painter and she had a passion for cooking and collecting recipes.

After being self-employed for almost 20 years, she worked for the Sam Houston State University's Department of Human Resources, retiring in 1988 following 15-years of service.

Mrs. Hickman was preceded in death by her husband; her brother, and five sisters, Lillian Walls, Evangelina Manuel, Mae Sonnier, Elvin Moreau and Gladys Ducote.

She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Paula Ann Hickman of Houston and Mary Edna and Richard Waltman of Athens; a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Carl Mark and Jan Mansell Hickman of Tomball; grandchildren, Gregory Mark Owens of Dallas, Ann Evangeline Engel of Denver, Colo., Jessica Lynn and Grant Davis Waltman of Athens, Cole Matthew and Clay Mansell Hickman of Tomball; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made to the M.D. Anderson research clinic for multiple myeloma or the myelodysplastic syndrome/leukemia clinic.

Pallbearers were Dr. Carl Mark Hickman, Cole Matthew Hickman, Clay Mansell Hickman, Kelly Lea, Gregory Mark Owens and Grant Davis Waltman.

Huntsville Funeral Home directed the arrangements.