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MARIE HARKINS KEE

Longtime Angleton resident, Marie Harkins Kee passed away at her home on Tuesday, June 14, 2005. Mrs. Kee was born January 16, 1919, the oldest child of James Marcus Harkins and Clara Harrison Harkins of Houston County. Mrs. Kee was part of a generation whose lives were forged by the harshness of the great depression and a cataclysmic World War, yet also among those whose boundless optimism never wavered.

Mrs. Kee was raised in the rural East Texas Community. Her family instilled her the importance of books, education, and community service. Mrs. Kee graduated from Crockett High School at the age of 16 and enrolled in Sam Houston State Teachers College to continue her education, a decision that made a profound difference in her life and the lives of her family members. She earned a teaching certificate and began a career as an educator at Center Point School where she met another young teacher, Leland Kee. They married and formed a partnership that flourished for 68 years.

The couple moved to Denton, and graduated from the University of North Texas in 1938.

War interrupted their lives from 1942 through 1945; Mr. Kee served in the U.S. Navy, Pacific Fleet and Mrs. Kee joined the work force in Southern Calif. After the war, she was secretary to the Chancellor of the University of Texas at Austin, while her husband completed UT Law School.

In 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Kee moved to Angleton to start a

career, family, and to begin a lifelong effort of community service, her joyful and spirited personality quickly helped her form a unique cadre of friends who embraced life in Angleton.

Mrs. Kee joined, and in some cases, was a charter member of numerous organizations among them Angleton Study Club, Rotary Ann's, Ladies Auxiliary of the Brazoria County Bar Association, Angleton Garden Club, Friends of the Brazoria County Library, The Bridge Club, Crescendo Dance Club and the Angleton Investment Club. Friendly, outgoing, opinionated, and fun loving, she made many, many wonderful friends in Angleton while enjoying her love of sewing, reading, politics, bridge, and good conversation.

For 86 years Mrs. Kee has been a devoted daughter, beloved wife, nurturing mother, and a steadfast friend. Her absence will be a heartfelt loss to the many people who have come to know, love, and depend on her.

Mrs. Kee is preceded in death by her infant daughter Karen Jane Kee and brother Dr. M.C. Harkins.

Survivors include husband, Bruce of Dallas; daughter, Nancy Kee Patterson of Lake Jackson; son, Barry Kee and wife, Lynn of Austin; grandchildren, John Endendyk, Sara Patterson, Elissa Patterson, Gena Patterson, Bradley Kee, and Michael Kee; sister-in-law Bessie Mae Kee of Alvin and Jane Harkins of Crockett.

Services honoring the life of Mrs. Kee were held Saturday, June 18, at the First United Methodist Church of Angleton. Graveside services were held at the Corinth Cemetery in Kennard, Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

The family request that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the First United Methodist Church Building Fund at P.O. Box 1058, Angleton, Texas 77516; The Corinth Cemetery Improvement Fund, care of Danny Galant, Rt. 1 Box 1023, Crockett, TX 75835; or the Leland and Marie Kee Scholarship Fund, care of Angleton ISD, 1900 North Downing Road, Angleton, TX 77515.

Palms Funeral Home