

16  
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## San Jacinto Newstimes

### LEWIS

Mary Ellen Hayman "Boots" Lewis 78, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend died November 27, 2007, after a lengthy illness. She was born July 23, 1929 in Plants, Ohio, the 3rd of 4 children of William Ray and Marie Sayre Hayman. She graduated valedictorian from Racine, Ohio class of 1947. She went on to Business College in Columbus, Ohio. After finishing business school she hired on as executive secretary to the mayor of Columbus, who eventually became governor of Ohio. While working in Columbus, a handsome Texan- Bill caught her eye and they were later married. In 1954, they moved to Houston and Mom began her career in the oil and gas industry, first as a receptionist and clerk, then land acquisitions and royalties and finally regulatory compliance. She spent over 20 years with Bart De Laat and Associates and then an additional 10 years with Petro-Lewis Corporation and Freeport-Macmoran following the exciting rollercoaster of boom and bust in the energy industry. She retired in 1989 with over 30 years of service. She had a passion for what she did and made many friends across several states during her career.

In addition to her work career, Mom had a passion for service and it showed in all of the activities and organizations she was a part of including: OASIS, Tejas Chapter of DAR, Southern Cross 2505 United Daughters of the Confederacy, North Harris/Montgomery County Desk and Derrick, George W. Bush Foundation at Texas A&M, Heritage Republican Women, and sole trustee of the Bart & Helen De Laat Endowment Fund at the Colorado School of Mines. In addition, she happily served as a Republican Precinct Chairman and Judge from 1986-2006. Mom believed you should never stop learning and was a longtime member of Oasis, a senior learning group where she especially enjoyed the Reading Club.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 47 years, Bill J Lewis, and older sister Lois Hayman Harris. She is survived by 3 sons and daughters-in-law. William Gregg and Elaine Lewis of Coldspring, Jeff and Holly Lewis of Tyler, and Paul and Emily Lewis of Tomball; 9 grandchildren Joe, Dan'l, Sarah, Michael, Julia, Grace, Tom, Hannah, and Richard; dearest sister and brother-in-law Jannie and John Simpson and niece Joni Simpson; brother and sister-in-law Bill and Lillian Hayman; lifetime friends Gladys Kunkel and Bernice Purcell and many other cherished friends and relatives.

Mom was a gracious person in life and in illness as she asked us to be sure and thank all of the wonderful caregivers and staff at Conroe Regional Medical Center, Park Manor of Conroe, and Unlimited Care in The Woodlands for all of their efforts in making mom well and comfortable in her final days. She also wanted us to thank everyone for their get-well cards, words of encouragement, prayers, and visits. If she could have she would have thanked you all personally.

Funeral services were conducted by Governor D.L. Clements at Candlelight Church of Christ, 4215 Watonga, Houston, Texas 77092 at 10am Monday Dec. 3, 2007. Interment followed at Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Candlelight Church of Christ.