



*Bessie Louise Phillips Helmke*

December 8, 1926 - December 26, 2022

# *Philippians 4:11-13*

*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*



**Bessie Louise Phillips Helmke**, 96, of Nederland, Texas, went peacefully home to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, December 26, 2022. She was born in Liberty, Texas on December 8, 1926, to Allen Walter and Bessie Lewis Phillips.

Bessie graduated from South Park High School in Beaumont, Texas in 1944 where she was a cheerleader, played tennis, and established lifelong friendships. After graduating from high school, she attended Lamar College majoring in Psychology. On September 14, 1946, Bessie married Burt Duane Helmke in Beaumont where they resided with their four children for many years in the hometown community of South Park before moving to Nederland in 1969. She was a faithful member of South Park Baptist Church in Beaumont and First Baptist Church of Nederland where she taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and served in the FBC library and outreach program visiting residents in nursing homes and those who were home-bound. Bessie and Burt lived in College Station, Texas after they married, where she worked at the Coca Cola Bottling Company while Burt attended Texas A&M. She loved all things Aggie, as did Burt, and was delighted when a daughter and several grandchildren chose to be part of Aggieland. Bessie was an enthusiastic member of the Aggie Moms Club as well.

Her joy was her faith and her family, devoting her life to serving both, and Bessie truly adored being MawMaw to her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Always a gracious hostess, she loved spending time with family and friends serving them delicious home-cooked meals and treats. She was a very traditional, elegant, strong-willed Southern lady who lived her life with grace, humility, kindness, and integrity and expected no less from her children, often reciting "Do unto others as you would have them do unto

you” and “There but for the grace of God goes I.” Bessie was a beautiful, loving, and caring daughter, sister, niece, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who will be forever missed.

Bessie was preceded in death by Burt, her devoted husband of seventy-two years, as well as her parents, her brother, Max Allen Phillips, her sisters Flora Phillips Tucker and Wilda Wills Jameson Hughes, and her step-mother, Nan Wills Phillips.

Left to cherish her precious memory are her children Luanna (Will) Wilson, The Woodlands, Texas; Laurie (Johnny) Jordan, The Woodlands, Texas; Phillip (Patty) Helmke, Nederland, Texas; and Bonnie (Kirt) Gaspard, Nederland, Texas; grandchildren Kristen (Joe) Woodcox, Allison (Brady) Barras, John Jordan, Jr., Emily (Eric) LeBlanc, Beau Helmke, John Graves, Jr., and Austin Gaspard; great-grandchildren Drew, Wilson, and Annabella Woodcox, Vivienne Wilson, Olivia and Brody LeBlanc; and several nieces and nephews.

Our family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful ladies who helped care for our parents with loving kindness, devotion, and compassion...Pam, Callie, Alice, Merone, Tammy, and Maria.



## *Psalm 23*

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul.*

*He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life; and I  
will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



### **Pallbearers**

Beau Helmke  
John Graves, Jr.  
John Jordan, Jr.  
Eric LeBlanc  
Joe Woodcox  
Brady Parras

### **Graveside Service**

Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:00 p.m.  
Forest Lawn Memorial Park  
Beaumont, Texas  
Reverend Dr. Jason Burden

### **Memorial Contributions**

First Baptist Church  
1911 Nederland Avenue  
Nederland, Texas 77627

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