



## Laverne R. Murphy

May 1, 1926 - April 14, 2019

BURLESON - Laverne Ray Murphy, 92, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Burleson, Texas.

Laverne Murphy was born in Fort Worth to Roy and Pearl Ray. She was the youngest of their four children who grew up on the North Side of Fort Worth through the years of the depression and World War II. She joined the workforce early, delivering items to customers of her father's grocery store and later worked as switchboard operator for Fort Worth Transit Company.

Laverne was a talented musician. Her music career began at an early age as she sang with her sister at the railroad station depot in exchange for a quarter. In her grade school years, she became a piano student and blossomed into a pianist, playing master works for recitals and playing for school assemblies at North Side High School. During her high school years, she auditioned for and was seated as an alto each year in the All City Chorus. As a sophomore, Laverne was named outstanding student in music by the faculty. She mastered the new musical style of the time, known as "boogie woogie."

Her notable alto voice eventually became part of a quartet: Laverne, her husband, Malcolm, and her two brothers, W.C. "Dub" and Garl "Bud" Ray. They entertained audiences, sang for weddings, in church services, and brought comfort to families at funerals with their singing for decades.

Laverne was married to John Malcolm Murphy, the "love of her life" (as she expressed it), for over 72 years and was the epitome of a great housewife, partner, and mother of four daughters. As an excellent seamstress, she sewed many clothes for her daughters and grandchildren, designed and sewed numerous costumes, and made upholstered cushions and curtains for both indoor and outdoor furnishings-including the custom-built campers made by Malcolm.

Her expertise as a great cook and hostess was well known among family and friends. She never missed the presentation of a daily, well balanced family meal and always had Sunday dinner ready to share-with unannounced friends and later boyfriends-at a moment's notice. In addition to acting as chauffeur to numerous school music and sports events, she loved keeping flower gardens and serving as family photographer. In the latter role, she placed the photos in numerous themed scrapbooks which cover more than

seven decades of her early family life through hers and Malcolm's senior years-an invaluable historical record of the family.

Laverne loved caring for babies and children and so, as Mother and Mamo, raised, baby sat for, and nurtured four daughters, three grandsons, four granddaughters, and delighted in welcoming two great-granddaughters and four great-grandsons.

The family expresses their gratefulness to her care providers: Right at Home, especially to Kelli and Darla, to Mission Hospice and Palliative Care of Cleburne, especially Meghan, Tonya and Chaplain Ingo; and to Mustang Creek Estates for their loving daily care in her final weeks, especially Lacey, Shonekqua, Crystal, Christina, Damien and Taylor.

Laverne was preceded in death by her husband, John Malcolm Murphy; parents, Roy W. Ray and Pearl Hawpe Ray; brothers, W.C. "Dub" Ray, Garl B. "Bud" Ray; sister, Lorene Ray Harvison; and grandson, Joey Walter.

Survivors: Daughter, Teresa Murphy-Stowers and husband, Kurt; daughter, Becky Larkin and husband, Earl; daughter, Libby Wren and husband, Jim; daughter, Carol Walter and husband, Jim; grandchildren, Alicia Murphy and husband, Matt; Doug Wren and wife, Amelia; Emily Martinez and husband, Roberto; Ali Wren and fiancée, Austin Brown; James Walter and wife, Chelsa; Katie Isbell and husband, Israel; Courtney Stowers LoBello, granddaughter by marriage and husband, Nick; and great-grandchildren, Larkin, Bennett, Owen, Maggie, Baker, Brooks, Vivienne, Cecilia and Dominic.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, please consider gifting to Cherokee Children's Home, Cook Children's Hospital, or Abilene Christian University.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Greenwood**

**Mausoleum**

3100 White  
Settlement Road  
Fort Worth, TX,  
76107

**APR Visitation 12:45PM - 01:30PM**

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**22**

GREENWOOD CHAPEL - Greenwood Funeral Homes and  
Cremation, Cemetery, Mausoleum, Florist  
3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX, US, 76107

**APR Funeral 01:30PM**

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**22**

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Cremation, Cemetery, Mausoleum, Florist  
3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX, US, 76107

# Comments

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Laverne R. Murphy.



April 19 at 06:25 PM

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“ Peggy, Tony and Linda purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Laverne R. Murphy.



**Peggy, Tony and Linda** - April 19 at 11:48 AM

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“ Lynda Allen Sanders, Teresa Callerman , Jim McLain purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Laverne R. Murphy.



**Lynda Allen Sanders, Teresa Callerman , Jim McLain** - April 18 at 06:18 PM

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“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Laverne R. Murphy.



April 18 at 05:21 PM