

Hartsell, Mary Jane (Montford) | 1917-2017

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Mary Jane Hartsell

Mary Jane Montford Hartsell, 99, died Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017.

Funeral was Aug. 7 at First Presbyterian Church in Bridgeport.

Hawkins Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mary Jane Montford was born Nov. 13, 1917, in Wise County to John and Emma Jeter Montford. Mary Jane and her four brothers and three sisters grew up on their farm in the Pleasant Valley community on the outskirts of Bridgeport. On Nov. 16, 1935, just two days after her eighteenth birthday, she married Roy Hartsell. Mary Jane and Roy lived in Bridgeport until their daughter graduated from college. They moved to Fort Worth, then returned home to Bridgeport after Roy retired.

Mary Jane was a talented seamstress and loved to make clothes. She made clothes for her whole family and would often go to the store and draw a picture of a dress then return home and make one that would be beautiful and fit perfectly. She especially loved to quilt. She loved being part of a quilting group called KrazZ Quilters and was the friend to turn to when anyone was learning a new sewing skill.

Mary Jane was talented, but the two most vital parts of her life were her church and her family. As a third generation Presbyterian, she was active in her church and especially loved singing in the choir and the Women of the Church. She was proud to attend the ordination of her grandson as an elder in the church, telling everyone he was a fifth-generation elder in the Presbyterian Church from the Montford family in America.

Mary Jane loved being involved and tried everything from the Home Demonstration Clubs of the 1940s to playing in a ukulele band. She served on several boards for Wise County and her church. Mary Jane proudly served as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. She was a 50-year member of the Eastern Star and was a Past Matron of the Decatur Eastern Star.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; brothers Charlie Montford, Dink Montford, Ross Montford and Jimmy Montford; and sisters Lalla Crawford, Marg Giles and Lucile Thomas.

Mary Jane is survived by daughter Claudia Roberts and husband, Tommy, of Fort Worth; grandchildren Matt Roberts and wife, Tarni, of Dallas, Leah Roberts and Nick Robertson of Fort Worth; great-grandchildren Kirston Potts of Fort Worth and Anna Roberts and Abby Roberts of Dallas; and many nieces and nephews.