



Willis, Beverly Ann (Stroup)

1937-2022

By ops@our-hometown.com / Published on April 13, 2022

Beverly Ann Stroup Willis, 84, of Boyd departed this life April 6, 2022, in Weatherford.

Memorial service was held Tuesday, April 12, 2022, in Fort Worth at Mount Olivet Chapel.

She was born Dec. 3, 1937, to Johnnie William and Viola Mae Stroup at their home in Fort Worth.

Beverly's life was filled with music. Beginning piano lessons at age six, she quickly became a talented pianist, playing in many concerts and recitals. She became the church pianist at First Assembly of God Church in Fort Worth in her teens. It was while playing for a Sunday evening service that she caught the eye of her beloved husband, Orville Earl Willis. After their marriage in Nov. of 1956, she continued playing piano and organ for church services, as well as directing youth and children's choirs. She remained faithful, accompanying many music directors for many, many years, until she "passed the baton" and retired from church music in

2014 due to health reasons.

Graduating magna cum laud in 1964 from the University of North Texas in Denton, Beverly began her teaching career in Fort Worth ISD, teaching fifth grade and elementary music. She then taught at Birdville ISD before relocating to Wise County, where she taught at Boyd Elementary for many years. Hundreds of students passed through her elementary music classes. She directed numerous school programs, and took several teams to UIL competitions for elementary music. After a short retirement, she returned to the classroom on a part-time basis as an ESL teacher, continuing her legacy of loving and teaching the children of Wise County. She fully retired from teaching in 1994.

Beverly loved to travel and made many precious memories with her family on summertime camping trips to mountainous areas, her favorite area being Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. When her children had grown, she and Orville expanded their travels around the US, and to overseas mission trips. She and Orville spent a year as missionaries in Kenya, where she continued her legacy of music and teaching at Roslyn Academy in Nairobi.

As the number of grandchildren grew, she began the tradition of "Grandma Camp," gathering her grandchildren for a week of music, crafts, field trips and fun each summer. She loved to host family and friends at their home in Boyd, where gatherings always included good food and great music, with many fun times of singing favorite songs and hymns around the piano. She loved to worship the Lord through music, and to share God's love with others through hospitality. Beverly dearly loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and because of her great faith, she lived a long, fulfilling life as a loving, supportive wife, devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, dedicated teacher and a dear friend to many. She was a shining example of God's grace and left a lasting legacy of beautiful music and steadfast faith to her family, numerous students, church members and friends.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved husband, Orville Earl Willis.

She is survived by her two sisters, Jean Stroup of Lago Vista and Joyce Kostelnik (Nick) of Bedford; her four children, Vicki Willis Ross of Boyd, Tamara Allen (John) of Ovilla, Steve Willis (Shelley) of Aledo and Tim Willis (Angela) of Spokane, Wash.; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.