

Etna Champion Brown | 1918-2014

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Etna Champion Brown

Etna Champion Brown, 96, died Saturday, May 3, 2014, in Brownwood after a long illness.

Funeral is 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 7, at the First Baptist Church at Alvord with Pastor Bill Cleveland officiating. Burial will follow at Alvord Cemetery under the direction of Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home of Decatur.

Pallbearers are Luke Culwell, Wade Brown, Jases Brown, Douglas Boswell, Josh Reich and Caleb Reich.

Etna Theo was born March 8, 1918, at home near Alvord to Charles Roy and Grace Elnora (Sims) Champion. She was named by her grandfather, Charley Champion, after his two favorite aunts.

Etna grew up on the farm in the Elm Community during the Great Depression. The family worked hard but enjoyed visiting and going to gospel singings. The Depression taught her to be content and live a simple, frugal life.

In 1929, Etna received Christ as her Savior after reading a little book of John given to her by her Sunday school teacher. She was baptized in the Alvord Baptist Church. Her faith sustained her throughout her life.

Etna graduated from Alvord High School in 1935 and went on to John Tarleton Junior College (now Tarleton State University) for one year, majoring in home economics. She later worked as a receptionist, in retail, and as a nurse's aide – but her life's work was as a homemaker. Her greatest joy was cooking and setting a beautiful table for her family.

In her later years, Etna played dominoes, kept her yard and sang in the church choir and at local nursing homes. She lived at home until the age of 92 with the help of her son, Royce, and daughter-in-law JoEllen, until she moved to Songbird Lodge in Brownwood.

She is survived by her daughter, Gayle Reich and husband, John Wayne, of Blanket; sons Freddie Ross and wife, Nancy, of Sun City, Ariz., Roger Wilson and wife, Kris, of Glenwood Springs, Colo., and Royce Brown and wife, JoEllen, of Alvord; grandchildren Marc Ross, Becky Ross, Luke Culwell and wife, Paige, Stacy Loftin and husband, Dustin, Kalie Reich, Josh Reich and wife, Mary Ruth, Caleb Reich, Wade Brown and wife, Andrea, Jases Brown and wife, Stacey, Katrina Amato and husband, Ryan, Elizabeth Thompson, Douglas Boswell and Tiffany Brown; 20 great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and a brother, C.W. Champion.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Alvord Building Fund.