

Mary Elaine McFarlin Barnett | 1923-2016

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Mary Elaine McFarlin Barnett

Mary Elaine McFarlin Barnett, 92, of Bridgeport, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016, of congestive heart failure.

Funeral is 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Decatur with the Rev. Shelley McNew officiating.

Burial is 2:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at DFW National Cemetery in Dallas.

Pallbearers are Dwayne Kennedy, Butch Baker, Tom Kastler, Todd Barnett, Shane Howard, Brent Parker, Will Bartoo, Tristen Forsythe, John Austin, Michael Austin and Spencer Austin.

Nicknamed early on as “Sally” by her siblings, Mary was born April 5, 1923, in Rockwall County to John Watson and Jessie Elizabeth (Sisk) McFarlin. She attended Kilgore Junior College. Mary married John L. Barnett Sr. June 28, 1941, in Wichita Falls.

She was a skilled secretary in the most professional sense of the word, beginning her career during World War II while working in the Quartermaster’s office at Camp Maxey and Camp Fannin.

Mary was the first secretary for Christie Mitchell and Mitchell in Wise County, working in a rented room in the courthouse in the early 1950s. She continued in the oil and gas industry working for A&B Well Service before settling in as a legal secretary for

Woodruff, Fostel, Wren and Simpson, eventually managing the firm's Bridgeport office until her retirement in 1985.

Mary was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church. She was a founder of the County Council on Alcoholism and the New Beginnings Al-Anon group.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 62 years, John L. Barnett Sr.; and her son, William Mack "Bill" Barnett.

Mary is survived by her son, John L. Barnett Jr. and wife, Betty, of Decatur; daughters Mary Jean Howard and husband, Paul, of Decatur and Cynthia Wood and husband, Walter, of Decatur; grandchildren Todd Barnett and wife, Heidi, Shelly Parker and husband, Brent, Romney Forsythe and husband, Billy, Shane Howard and Alison Wood.

She is also survived by great-grandchildren William, Tristen, Mac, Bella, Ashlynn, Jack and Emma; great-great-grandchildren Abel and Leo; sisters Anne Thomas of Pasadena and Nancy Woodson of Wichita, Kan.; and numerous other family members and friends.

Memorial contributions can be made to any of the following charities: Wise Area Relief Mission, P.O. Box 1084, Decatur, TX 76234, 940-626-4676; The Wounded Warriors Project, woundedwarriorproject.org; or any local animal shelter.