



## Hughlene Stokes

October 25, 1924 - December 6, 2020

Willie Hughlene Thompson Stokes was born October 25, 1924, to Mart and Lillian Thompson in Upshur County and passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020. Known affectionately as Tootsie in her youth, she was reared on her family farm in Latch where she met her husband Alton while picking cotton. They married December 24, 1940 in the Rosewood Community at the preacher's home. After Alton was deployed to San Diego during WWII, she soon followed, securing employment at Vultee Consolidated Aircraft, where she served her country as a riveter and bucker building PBY Catalina Bomber Seaplanes. She was awarded the coveted "E Award" for excellence and earned a place in history as a Rosie the Riveter. After WWII, they raised their family in Gilmer and enjoyed their golden years in the Little Mound community, establishing a home beneath the shade of the pecan tree where Alton had asked for her hand in marriage.

Although Hughlene constructed airplanes, the very first flight she boarded wasn't until 1982, a transatlantic journey to Europe for a flower and garden tour. The adventure inspired a love for travel and she later enjoyed trips to the Marshall Islands, Hawaii, the Middle East, the Greek Isles, and Israel, as well as road trips and bus tours across the United States. Hughlene was an active member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association and her personal story was published in *Rosie the Riveter Stories: How They Did It!* (2016). That same year, she was awarded the distinction of being the first "Rosie" from the state of Texas to join an Honor Flight to Washington DC with a group of WWII

veterans. Her patriotic legacy is memorialized at the Rosie the Riveter rose garden installation at the Upshur County Courthouse.

An avid gardener well into her nineties, she claimed the CB handle "Green Thumb." Many benefited from the bounty of her harvests and she took pleasure in sharing her seeds and starter plants with others. Her culinary specialties were chicken and dressing, squash pickles, and pecan pie. She was always ready for a game of Spinner Dominoes, eager to play with anyone who loved to laugh and didn't mind losing! Baptized at age eleven in a pond in Shady Grove, she was a life-long member of Little Mound Baptist Church. A proud seventh generation Texan, she enjoyed membership in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and all who knew Hughlene were endeared by her kindness and gentle spirit.

Hughlene is preceded in death by her husband Alton, February 21, 1997; children Nelda and Stanley, and grandson Jared. Those left to cherish her memory are son Steve Stokes (Gay Nell), daughter Melissa Holmes (David), daughter Stella Stokes, and daughter-in-law Betty Stokes, as well as five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren who adoringly knew her as "Granny." Additionally, Hughlene is survived by her brother Bill Thompson (Gayle) and numerous nieces and nephews. The family would like to express our most sincere gratitude for the care provided by the staff at Wesley House of Gilmer, Highland Park Home Health, and Heart to Heart Hospice.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at Little Mound Baptist Church, followed by a graveside service at 2:00 pm at the church's cemetery pavilion, at 11746 FM 49, Big Sandy, Texas. The service will be officiated by Brother Michael Phillips and Brother Charles Johnson.

Due to COVID, the family requests that you wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Little Mound Cemetery Association at PO Box 1387, Gilmer, Texas 75644.

Pallbearers are Steve Stokes, David Holmes, Jeff Holmes, Brian Weast, Ethan McCready and Marty Thompson.

Honorary pallbearers are Alan Davis, Preston Davis, Nathan Davis, Austin Davis, Matt Thompson and Marcus Thompson.

Please visit Hughlene's on-line registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Little Mound Baptist Church  
11746 FM 49  
Big Sandy, TX 75755

## Graveside Service

DEC 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Little Mound Cemetery  
11746 FM 49  
Big Sandy, TX 75755

# Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Hughlene Stokes*



**McWhorter Funeral Home** - December 07, 2020 at 04:48 PM

HC

*What a beautiful video tribute. Whenever I visited Steve & the Stokes family, she always made me feel a part of the family. I shall cherish my memories of her. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family. Harvey Craig*

**Harvey Craig** - December 07, 2020 at 06:09 PM

SD

*love the pictures and I love my Toots. Rest in Peace and enjoy our family there. My love to all. Wish I was there. Sharon Langford Doughty*

**Sharon Doughty** - December 07, 2020 at 06:16 PM

GS

*This was wonderful to see.... so many years and blessings in these photos. I loved this little lady so much. You all are in my heart and prayers.*

**Gina Sosa** - December 07, 2020 at 11:09 PM

BP

*Beautiful video! Just what I remember,,,, ALWAYS HAD THAT SMILE.*

**Bob Pool** - December 08, 2020 at 12:15 AM

SD

*Oh my goodness, what a lovely tribute to a beautiful lady and her family. My favorite memory of Hughlene is playing dominos. I had the pleasure of staying with her one Christmas and enjoyed several spirited games of dominos at Granny's table. I do believe she usually emerged as the winner. She was certainly easy to love, as we all did.*

**Sunnye Davis** - December 08, 2020 at 01:35 PM

GS

*“ Such a kind, gentle, and gracious lady... Always enjoyed visiting with her when she came to the bank.*

**Glenda Sustaire** - December 08, 2020 at 09:21 AM

MH

*“ So sorry for the families loss. She was always so cheerful when we would see her. She will definitely be missed. Love Marie Harris(Emmit Thompson granddaughter)*

**Marie Harris** - December 08, 2020 at 08:37 AM

LA

*“ Heaven truly gained an Angel*

**Larry** - December 08, 2020 at 07:41 AM

SN

*“ I remember Alton and Hughlene moving next door to us. I loved playing with Nelda. I was 6 when she was born. Also, remember when Stanley was born. We enjoyed having them as neighbors. We hated when they moved. My love to each of you in your loss. Steve, Melissa and Stella...I cherish the good memories of all of you. God bless.*

**Sondra Petty Nicholson** - December 07, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ Jim and I loved sitting with her and talking at eating and singing service we had at the last Wednesday of the Month. She was a joy to be around. I will miss her, Jayne Cook

Jayne Cook - December 07, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ Lavender & White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Hughlene Stokes.



December 07, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ 73 files added to the album Life Tributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - December 07, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Hughlene Stokes.*



December 07, 2020 at 03:01 PM



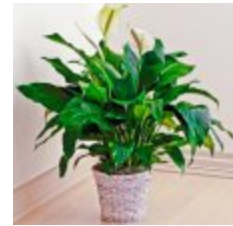
“ *Hughlene was a Class Lady that always had something nice to say and had a warm smile. She will be missed. GOD BLESS*



**Bob Pool** - December 07, 2020 at 02:51 PM



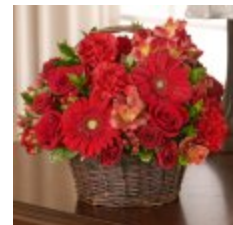
“ *Bob Pool purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Hughlene Stokes.*



**Bob Pool** - December 07, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ *Love, Gayla Smith and Don Shoulders purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red for the family of Hughlene Stokes.*



**Love, Gayla Smith and Don Shoulders** - December 07, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Hughlene Stokes.*



December 07, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Hughlene Stokes.*



December 07, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ *Years ago Mrs Stokes came to visit Stella in her new apartment in Coppell, Tx and made lunch. Stella invited me and she made turnip greens, mashed potatoes and chicken fried steak. It was wonderful. She was a sweet lady and will never be forgotten.*

**Awetha Roberts** - December 07, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ *Love, Maya Claire, Dodie and Donny Sorvala purchased the Multicolor Bright Standing Wreath for the family of Hughlene Stokes.*



**Love, Maya Claire, Dodie and Donny Sorvala** - December 07, 2020 at 01:03 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of *Hughlene Stokes*.



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December 07, 2020 at 12:55 PM