



Myrtis Ann Stephens

November 25, 1940 - April 24, 2025

Myrtis Ann Stephens, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed peacefully from this life on April 24, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, faith, music, and family devotion.

Born on November 25, 1940, in Cooper, Texas, Myrtis was the daughter of Julia May Schultz (Acker) and S.M. Schultz.

As a teenager visiting her grandmother Acker in Cooper, Myrtis met the love of her life, Doyal Ray Stephens, in a serendipitous encounter at the local café. They had known of each other but met formally that weekend. After only two weeks of courtship, the two eloped to Hugo, Oklahoma, and were married on July 13, 1957. She was just 16; he was 19. Together, they welcomed four children: Clint, Keith, Randy, and Kim. Myrtis embraced motherhood with devotion, grace, and joy. In their early years, they made their home in Grand Prairie, where they lived in a tiny garage apartment and taught themselves to cook, sharing their first meal of fried chicken and mashed potatoes. Doyal worked long hours for American Can while Myrtis kept the home running smoothly. They eventually made their permanent home in Big Sandy.

Myrtis was a woman of abiding faith. Her love for God shaped the way she loved others: sacrificially, gently, and without condition. Mert, as some called her, loved to play the piano and the upright bass, and sing alongside her husband. They loved making music together. The couple traveled to Nashville several times, where they met many country legends and where Myrtis was often mistaken for Loretta Lynn.

Though they had the talent and opportunity to pursue fame, they chose to raise a family instead. They brought joy to family reunions, festivals, and nursing homes as they played and sang their hearts out for hours. Their bluegrass band, Coldwater Creek, recorded several songs on a CD.

Myrtis was preceded in death by her parents, brother Earl Schultz, sisters Janice Deel, Brenda Maynard, Janie Payton, her son Clinton Ray Stephens, and grandson Clinton Joshua Stephens.

Those left to cherish her memory are her devoted husband of 67 years, Doyal Ray Stephens; her children Keith Stephens (Rhonda), Randy Stephens (Prissy), and Kim Berger (Leo); her grandchildren Hannah Stephens, Shannon Dutton (Lucas), Tiffany Barber (Raymond), Steffany Jewell (Seth), Sara Allen (Chase), Lana Yarbrough (Eric), Lara Armas (Ephraim), Ryan Berger, Kirk Berger; 21 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, her brother SM Jr Schultz, and extended family who cherished her sweet spirit, contagious laugh, and unfailing love.

Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord.”

Matthew 25:23

Pallbearers will be Ryan Berger, Kirk Berger, Brayden Jewell, Collin Barber, Logan Jewell, Cash Barber

Funeral services for Mrs. Stephens will be held at 10:00 am, Saturday, April 26, 2025, at McWhorter Funeral Home. Interment to follow at Chilton Cemetery. Visitation will be held 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Friday, at McWhorter Funeral Home.

Please visit Myrtis' online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Chilton Cemetery

Big Sandy, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

APR **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Myrtis Stephens Funeral Service



McWhorter Funeral Home - April 26, 2025 at 06:30 PM

ME

My deepest sympathies on the loss of such a wonderful woman. The best mother in law and grandmother ever ❤️ So loved and truly missed

Mary Emaline Edwards - April 30, 2025 at 12:29 PM

RN

“ Ricky and Mary Norman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.



Ricky and Mary Norman - April 25, 2025 at 04:18 PM

GF

“ Gwyn Fenton purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.



Gwyn Fenton - April 25, 2025 at 03:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.



April 25, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Myrtis Ann Stephens.

April 25, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.



April 25, 2025 at 01:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.



April 25, 2025 at 12:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Myrtis Ann Stephens.

April 25, 2025 at 12:39 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.*



April 25, 2025 at 10:45 AM



“ *Mike & Wendy Nole purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.*



Mike & Wendy Nole - April 25, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ *What a precious family. The times we met Ms. Myrtis she was such a beautiful lady, inside & out. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all. God richly bless you. Much Love, Pam & Steve Phinny*

Pam & Steve Phinny - April 25, 2025 at 07:35 AM



Thank you so much for your kind words and the beautiful flowers.

Kim Berger - April 27, 2025 at 06:29 PM



“ *My wife and I extend our heartfelt sympathy at the passing of your mother. Both of us have experienced that, and understand the influence mothers have in our lives. Les and Marge Massey*

Dr. Lesly F. Massey - April 24, 2025 at 11:20 PM

KB

Thank you. It's definitely hard, and she will be missed.

Kim Berger - April 27, 2025 at 06:30 PM

JB

“ Jon Ballenger and Sherry Bond purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Myrtis Ann Stephens.



Jon Ballenger and Sherry Bond - April 24, 2025 at 09:17 PM

PD

“ Mert was a sweet and beautiful lady! Enjoyed hearing her sing and laugh. Remember her with a Love for Life! Hugs to all her family. Haskel & Pam Dean

Pam Dean - April 24, 2025 at 09:01 PM

KB

I agree, Pam! Thanks for sharing and for the hugs. We need them. :)

Kim Berger - April 27, 2025 at 06:31 PM



“ 242 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - April 24, 2025 at 07:41 PM



“ 25 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McWhorter Funeral Home - April 24, 2025 at 06:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Myrtis Ann Stephens*.



April 24, 2025 at 04:19 PM