



## Mrs. Viola Chevalier Barksdale

May 26, 1923 - March 20, 2017

Love Itself, impeccable daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, friend and faithful servant of the Lord, passed away on the first day of spring, a time of rebirth and new beginnings, March 20, 2017 in Longview, Texas with her children by her side. She is survived by countless people who know how to live and love because of her example. She was born in Kelsey, Texas on May 26, 1923. She was 93.

Viola was always a welcoming, accepting and nonjudgmental person. She deeply loved her family and constantly gave to and served them from a place of love. Viola hand-made each grandchild a baby blanket, blankets that were so cherished and well-loved that they became tattered beyond recognition. The people who were influenced and shaped by her quiet, unassuming life are innumerable. She inspired others with how easily and fully she accepted people, made them feel seen, loved and understood.

Mrs. Barksdale is preceded in death by her eternal sweetheart Nelson Arley Barksdale. The two were married Dec. 24, 1941 and later sealed for time and all eternity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City Temple. She was a loving and devoted companion, supporting him in his professional endeavors and his ecclesiastical callings. She will be laid to rest by his side, just as she lived.

Mrs. Barksdale is survived by six children and their respective spouses: Sharon and Ruben Connor, Nelson and Stefani Barksdale, Janice Erwin, Susie and Larry Johnson, Greg and Theresa Barksdale and Laree and Russ Smith.

Her 37 grandchildren, their spouses, 97 great-grandchildren (and counting), and one great-great grandchild (and counting) remember her for her unconditional love and kindness, her quick wit and contagious smile. Grandchild Robert Aaron Erwin preceded her in death.

William and Sarah Chevalier, raised their 13 children in Kelsey, Texas. Viola was the middle child. Her surviving siblings include: Thurza Blackshear, Jean (A.D.) Taylor and Azell (Patricia) Chevalier. Preceding her in death: Virgie Bender, Foy Chevalier, Bernard Chevalier, Esther Payne, Oni Bryant, Wanda Gibson, Faynell Green, Waymond Chevalier and Mildred Chevalier. She had a host of nieces and nephews who were close to her. Viola was the first, but not the last, person in her family to graduate from high school.

As a lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Sister Barksdale, as she is known in her church community, selflessly served in many leadership roles including Relief Society President and Young Women's President, Primary teacher, Cub Scout Den Leader, Visiting Teacher, Temple worker and many others. Her final calling for the church was Librarian. She and her husband served a full-time mission spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in Pennsylvania.

# Cemetery Details

## Enoch Cemetery

FM 49  
Gilmer, TX 75644

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

MAR **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Longview  
1700 Blueridge Pkwy  
Longview, TX 75604

# Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Viola Chevalier Barksdale*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - March 23, 2017 at 07:39 PM



“ *a "saint" is a term used for a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness or likeness to God....thank you sister barksdale for being my friend for 50 yrs and always encouraging me to love the lord! we shall meet again. ...i have no more words.....*  
*ron davis*  
*natchitoches, la*

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**Ron Davis** - March 27, 2017 at 01:35 PM

DB

“ *Susie and family,*  
*So very sorry for the loss of your mother.*  
*With Deepest Sympathy.*  
*Donna Stebbins Binford*

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**Donna Stebbins Binford** - March 27, 2017 at 01:02 AM

PW

“ I have to many memories to mention but sister Barksdale was our mother away from home growing up in Longview oh how she would make up goodies to eat and was so delicious to us kids . Always happy never seen her upset and that's a great thing when your close to the saviour as she always was then your always happy such a wonderful mother and daughter of our Heavenly Father. She would always have us young men some ice cold tang to drink when we would come up from the woods and the creek from playing hard . There was about eight of us boys that we all had the remwembrance of her growing up and teaching us the gospel in primary and Sunday school . Myself her son Greg Wesley mcwhorter daniel Mcnew , William :Sullivan , David barrow delton Davis and benji ault . There are other as well but these are the ones I grew up with and that she taught . Such wonderful times we had at the barsdales house on swinging bridge Rd. The only time I know that she got upset is when us boys got lauree in the airplane swing that brother Barksdale made when we spun her around and around till she got sick but hey this was about 50 years ago . And we were kids . In all I can say I know that she will be with our Heavenly Father for all she has done for each of us that knew her and I'm thankful that I got the chance to grow up where my roots are and that she was there when she was needed . Love her as a mother and as my own . The last thing I remember her is that last summer we stopped by to visit her and she laying in the bed there to get treatment and confert for her I did get to speak to her one last time . She said"quote I always remembered you boys and love all of you " it was touching for sure that she remembered each of us . I pray that she will be blessed and that the Barksdale family will be also .

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phil willams - March 24, 2017 at 03:11 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement was purchased for the family of Mrs. Viola Chevalier Barksdale.*



March 23, 2017 at 10:15 PM



“ *Dick and Sue Ganschaw and Dorothy Waldrop purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mrs. Viola Chevalier Barksdale.*



**Dick and Sue Ganschaw and Dorothy Waldrop** - March 23, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ *160 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**McWhorter Funeral Home** - March 23, 2017 at 07:18 PM

FF

“ Foy Chevalier Family purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of Mrs. Viola Chevalier Barksdale.



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**Foy Chevalier Family** - March 23, 2017 at 12:41 PM



“ Cherished Memories - Multicolor Pastel was purchased for the family of Mrs. Viola Chevalier Barksdale.



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March 23, 2017 at 12:36 PM

MB

“ This wonderful, vibrant, full of life person will be so very missed. Great Aunt to the Bender family has been a tremendous matriarchal figure with passion for everything. We will miss her fantastic smile, laughter and knowledge.



*God Speed Dear Lady.  
Love  
Janet And Robby Bender*

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**Mr and Mrs Robby Bender** - March 23, 2017 at 11:21 AM

WM

“ I was always welcomed at the Barksdale home. She made me feel a part of the family. I probably ate at their house more than my own. I loved her immensely and she will be missed.

Wes McWhorter

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**Wes McWhorter** - March 23, 2017 at 09:33 AM

EN

“ Nelson and family, As a member of a large family myself, I know the happy memories you must be sharing during your time of sadness. May your memories, and the knowledge of a reunion with your loved one, be a solace to you during the days to come. My heart and prayers are with you all.

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**Edna (Ridgey) Nevill-McKillop** - March 23, 2017 at 08:48 AM

JH

“ I have a special memory of visiting in Viola's Rock home in Kelsey while playing with Susie. I remember we spied a coconut cake on top of the fridge! For the past few years I have had the privilege of being Viola's Visiting Teacher. Even tho she was walking slowly she insisted on being a hostess and serving Blue Bell or water herself! She intently listened to what I had to say and loved visiting. She would look for opportunities to offer compliments or encouragement. It was a joy to be with her in her home and more recently in the nursing home where she still had an interest in everything being said. Viola is truly an Elect lady.

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**Janell Hill** - March 22, 2017 at 06:21 PM