



Theda Raye O'Neal

October 14, 1944 - January 22, 2022

Theda Raye (Graham) O'Neal, 77, of Temple, TX, passed away on January 22, 2022 at Baylor Scott and White Health in Temple.

Theda was born October 14, 1944 to William (Billy) and Doris Graham in Gatesville, TX. Theda graduated from Gatesville High School in 1962. She then entered the work force here in Central TX.

In June 1964, she was introduced to Larry N. O'Neal on a blind date. They married a little over 2 months later on September 4, 1964 in Central TX. After Larry was discharged from the Army in October of 1964, they moved to the Ohio Valley to make their home. They would remain in the OH Valley from 1964 to 1999. They lived in Marietta, Newport and finally Vienna, WV. Larry and Theda were blessed with 2 daughters, Sheila & Sherry. Theda was a lifelong homemaker and an active participant in Larry's ministry as a pastor. They traveled and sang gospel music together. Theda was also sought after for solos later in their ministry together.

In 1999, Theda and Larry relocated to Central TX to be closer to their children, grandchildren and Theda's family.

Theda was predeceased by her father. She is survived by her husband of Temple as well as daughters, Sheila Bass (Dan) of Temple and Sherry Smith (Tony) of Waco. She is also survived by 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Additionally, she is survived by her mother of Belton; brother, Jimmy Graham, of Belton and sister, Patsy Cofer, of Temple. A celebration of Theda's life will be held February 26, 2022 at 11AM at the First Baptist Church in Temple. Family visitation will be at 10AM at the church. The service will be livestreamed on the church's YouTube channel.

Previous Events

Family Visitation

FEB 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church-Temple
815 W. Adams Avenue
Temple, TX 76502
<http://www.firsttemple.org>

Celebration

FEB 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church-Temple
815 W. Adams Avenue
Temple, TX 76502
<http://www.firsttemple.org>

Tribute Wall

TK

“ Larry and family: Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of Theda. She was very special. We have certainly missed seeing you at Gravel Hill and I can't help but think of you all when I hear Feelin' Fine! The Keys could really get with that song and you couldn't help but smile. I was always after Theda to sing Wish you were here and she did such a beautiful job. Now she is in Heaven and knows what "here" is like and taking in everything and talking with Jesus. I think the alto section of the choir got a little brighter with the addition of my Mom and Theda! We will keep you in prayer during this difficult time and may you feel His arms around you and holding you up. We are so sorry.



Tammy Kenney - February 12 at 03:17 PM

TK

“ Larry and family - I wanted to give you my most heartfelt condolences on the loss of Theda. We have certainly missed seeing you both at Gravel Hill and missed hearing you sing. I can never hear "Feelin' Fine" without thinking of you. Bonnie, Phyllis and Mom could really get with it when they played it! And I always bugged Theda to sing "Wish you were here". Well now she is there and has earned her reward. I somehow think the alto section of the choir just got brighter, probably standing beside my Mom! Our prayers for your comfort and strength in the coming days and I know God will hold you up!

Tammy Kenney - February 10 at 04:14 PM

SB

“ I have an original LP of the United Harmonizers. Loved to hear them sing. Newport Methodist and Beech Grove both had amazing Sunday School teachers and preachers. We need more folks in this world that are as dedicated and Larry and Theda.

Sue VanNoy Bookman - January 28 at 09:25 PM

BF

“ Bill, Kaye & Faye purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Theda Raye O'Neal.



Bill, Kaye & Faye - January 28 at 03:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theda Raye O'Neal.* ”



January 28 at 12:32 PM