



Mary Helena Patterson

January 28, 1925 - April 4, 2020

Mary H. Patterson, 95, died peacefully in Dallas on April 3 after a long and productive life.

Born January 28, 1925, Mary Helena Hollon was raised in rural east Texas, near Commerce. Her parents, Sam and Myrtle Hollon, ran the County Farm during the Depression, and during her formative years on the farm she helped take care of the elderly and disabled residents who had been sent there by their families or had nowhere else to go.

She was the youngest of eight children, two of whom died in childhood. She and her five older brothers remained close throughout their lives, and she adored her nieces and nephews.

Her first job, at fifteen, was selling popcorn at the movie theater. As soon as she was eligible on her eighteenth birthday, she applied to work at Majors Field near Greenville, and was hired to record the cadets' training flight times. She was very proud of her contribution to the war effort. Her many friendships, romances and adventures during World War II made it one of the best periods of her life.

She met her first husband, Boyd Patterson, at the end of the war, and they settled in Greenville. After the birth of their two children they moved to Richardson, Texas, her home for the next 20 years.

She was a woman of many interests and talents. She loved Girl Scouts, becoming a troop leader for the first time at 19, and later organizing a troop in Richardson. She took great pride in her needlework, and loved reading, horseback riding and travel. She was a charter member of Spring Valley Methodist Church and was active in Altrusa Club of Richardson.

During her long and varied career, she worked for companies as diverse as Neiman Marcus and Owens Country Sausage. She made so much money as a Welcome Wagon

representative that her father accused her of doing something illegal. The high point was the wedding and catering business she launched in 1966—Mary Patterson, Inc.—which grew into one of the most respected services of its kind in greater Dallas. Later in life she worked at Lancers Club and Scottish Rite Hospital.

She married her second husband, Frank Smaldino, in 1980 and enjoyed a wonderful life with him in Dallas until his death in 1998.

Mary was also preceded in death by her brothers Louie, Dan, Fred, Gene and Sammy, nieces and nephews Tommy, Shirley and Jimmy, and longtime treasured friends Jane Woodul and Novell DeBord.

She is survived by son and daughter-in-law Boyd and Susan Patterson of Richardson, and daughter and son-in-law Julianna and Bill Greer of Fort Worth; stepdaughters Samantha and Francesca; grandchildren Morgan Bentley and husband Jay, and Marcus Patterson and his wife Stephanie; great-grandchildren Daniel, Savannah, London and Mayzie; nieces Peggy, Patty, Wanda, Susan and Melissa, and nephews Larry and Stephen; and beloved nieces and nephews in the Patterson family.

Mary touched countless lives and will be remembered for her tirelessness, generosity, engaging personality, quick wit and, most of all, her boundless, unconditional love.

The family is grateful to the staff of Monticello West for their loving care over the past 3 ½ years, and to Holding Hands Hospice. A memorial service will be held at Restland of Richardson at the earliest opportunity. Mary would be honored by gifts in her memory to Scottish Rite Hospital of Dallas.

Comments



“ Boyd and Julianna, I remember meeting your Mother at Spring Valley Methodist Church when Ray and I were a young bride and groom. Your mother was an outstanding leader and a wonderful Christian Lady.
I am so sorry to hear of your great loss.
Prayers for you and your family.
Joy Turner

Joy Turner - April 30, 2020 at 08:49 PM



“ Your mother was such an engaging, wonderful woman who helped my mother and me with the planning of my first wedding in 1976. I still remember when my mother saw a picture of the wedding cakes she had brought in from East Texas, she said “we HAVE to have one of those!!” It was truly the most beautiful wedding cake I’d ever seen. Mary Helena Patterson had a beautiful, entrepreneurial spirit, and loved what she did. May you now Rest In Peace, having lived a full & wonderful life. Debbie Hensley Dryden

Debbie Dryden - April 15, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ Boyd and Julianna, I am very sorry for your loss. I have memories of the two of you playing in your front yard in Greenville. After all of us moved to Richardson, your mom helped plan my wedding in 1969. She also taught me how to cut wedding cakes so I could help her at some of the receptions she oversaw. What a fun lady! I appreciated her artistic abilities and her sense of creativity.

Alice (Wright) Payn

Alice Payn - April 12, 2020 at 10:53 AM