

Bess Cox



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Elizabeth Louise Waltman Cox, known as Bess, was born March 27, 1916, to Celeste and Bernard Waltman. She married W. J. Cox, who preceded her in death in 1980. They lived most of their lives in Bridge City and Orange, TX, where they raised their two daughters.

While in Bridge City, Bess was elected to the Bridge City School Board. She also helped to begin Eastern Star Chapter #1038. Bess was co-owner of the Bess & Edna Style Center of Orange in the 1950s, and later the Bridge City Insurance Agency for many years. At age 60, she earned her BS in Business Administration from Lamar University while working for the Mann Insurance Agency of Orange. Bess was District Governor of Pilot International, and was also an avid volunteer of the Orange American Red Cross, Helping Hands Tutoring in the Orange Public Schools, and in nursing homes in Orange and Austin.

Bess was a lifetime member of Pilot Club International, Order of the Eastern Star, Business and Professional Women, Beta

Sigma Phi. She also enjoyed several Bridge Clubs and Senior Citizen Groups of Austin, Crockett, and Ratcliff.

In 1990, Bess moved to Austin TX to help with the raising of her granddaughter, and made many friends at the Oak Hill Senior Citizen Center and Bannockburn Baptist Church. In 2000, she moved to Houston County with her family, and the place has never been the same since! She attended Tres Dias #12 and was a Prayer Cha for Tres Dias #13. Bess was an active member of the Questers Class, Young at Heart and United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church-Crockett.

Members of OES #509 of Crockett could always count on Bess for her knowledge and participation.

Mrs. Cox is survived by two daughters, Celeste Tanner, of Hagerville, TX, and Elizabeth West and husband Morris of Emerald Bay, TX. Her five grandchildren are Wynona Chilbert of Kettle Falls, WA., Joy Tanner of Hagerville, Elena Crim and husband, Jack, of Flint, TX, Timothy West of Portland, OR, and Chela West of Duncanville, TX. Her five great-grandchildren are Kendra & Frank Chilbert of Kettle Falls, WA., Phillip Spade Tanner of Hagerville, and Kyle Johnson and Katie Crim of Flint.

Memorial Service will be at 10 a.m., Friday, March 14, at the Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel. Interment followed at the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Orange, TX.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Houston County Habitat for Humanity, P. O. Box 1233, Crockett, Texas 75835 or First United Methodist Church Questers Class, P. O. Box 984, Crockett, Texas 75835.