

Betty Dupree Carpenter
February 2, 1927 - March 5, 2006

Betty Dupree (Mrs. Ben H.) Carpenter passed away on Sunday morning, March 5, surrounded by her loving children. She was 79 years old. Grace personified, Betty Carpenter was first and always a lady. Born Elizabeth Ann Dupree on February 2, 1927, in Dallas, Texas, to Laura Gaston White Dupree and Leland Smith Dupree, she was a loving daughter, wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and friend. Her understated elegance and warmth touched all who knew her. Affectionately named "Little Betty" by her mother, she attended Bradfield Elementary School and graduated with honors from Highland Park High School in 1944. She attended Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, for one year before returning to Texas and receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1948.

At the University of Texas, she met Ben Carpenter, who had just returned from World War II. For Ben Carpenter, it was love at first sight; they were married on June 18, 1948, a happy union that endured fifty-eight years, produced five children, and ended this week when they died within two days of each other – Ben on the 3rd and Betty on the 5th.

A lover of books and a voracious reader, Betty Carpenter returned to school to study under Dr. Louise Cowen at the University of Dallas where she received a Master's Degree in Humanities. Betty Carpenter's service will be remembered as an officer and board member of the Junior League of Dallas, the Dallas Woman's Club, the Dallas Gardens Club, the Child Guidance Center of Dallas, the Irving Arts Board, and the Irving Community Hospital. She also served as member of the Board of Regents of Texas Woman's University in Denton Texas. Her giving will be remembered by the many charitable donations Betty and her husband made throughout her life. Active in the Presbyterian Church and a member first of the Highland Park Presbyterian Church and a charter member of the Park Cities Presbyterian Church, she and her husband donated land for the establishment of two new Presbyterian Churches, and provided funds for the construction of the Carpenter Chapel at the Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas.

Betty and Ben Carpenter provided land for the establishment of the Irving Arts Center, which includes a 707-seat concert hall (Carpenter Performance Hall) and a 253-seat theater (Dupree Theater). They also gave the land for Irving Community Hospital, and property on which the Las Colinas Elementary School is located in Carrollton-Farmers Branch School district. Gifts given by Betty and Ben Carpenter established the Carpenter Family MBA Student Leadership Center and Carpenter Family MBA Student Leadership Endowment at the University of Texas and the Ben H. and Betty Dupree Carpenter Endowment for Cardiovascular Research at the Heart, Lung & Vascular Clinical Center of

Excellence at St. Paul Hospital of Dallas. They also were generous contributors to the Capital Campaign at Providence Christian School of Texas.

Betty Carpenter was preceded in death by her loving husband of 58 years, Ben. She is survived by her sister, Laura Jean Holland of Dallas; five children: a son, John W. Carpenter III of Dallas; four daughters, Laura Carpenter of Austin; Elizabeth Carpenter Frater of Dallas; Barbara Carpenter Kendrick of Dallas, Ellen Carpenter Pace of Austin; and nine grandchildren: Benjamin Carpenter II, Austin Carpenter, Bonner Carpenter, Ryan Frater, Spencer Kendrick, Will Kendrick, Katie Pace, Annie Pace, and Virginia Pace.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ben and Betty Carpenter Memorial Fund for Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. A family gravesite service will be on Tuesday morning in Corsicana, Texas. A memorial service concurrent with that of her beloved husband, Ben, will be at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church with Rev. Joseph F. Ryan and Rev. Sherwood M. Strodel officiating.

Dignity Memorial Sparkman Hillcrest 7405 W. Northwest Hwy. Dallas (214) 363-5401

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