



## Ella Nelson

February 18, 2017

ELLA NELSON

DECEMBER 12, 1913 – FEBRUARY 18, 2017

Ella Nelson, age 103, of Bulverde died Saturday, February 18, 2017.

Sassy, sporty, sarcastic, spunky, and sweet...All could be used to describe the 103+ years of Ella's vibrant life.

She was born December 12, 1913, to Jim and Ruby Brown, in Tarsney, Missouri, and was the third eldest of seven children (3 girls, 3 boys, & Patsy).

Ella lived through the Great Depression and gained the incredible work ethic and integrity that many from that era exhibited. She was practical in her approach to living and cautious in her expenditures. She was up early and busy from dawn until dusk. Her house, yard, and vehicle were immaculate and well-maintained.

After graduating from Lone Jack High School, Ella attended beauty school in Kansas City and spent many years in this profession. Early in her 20's, a handsome man named Frank Nelson caught her eye, and they were married in August of 1935. They lived and worked in Missouri during their early years together. She even owned and operated her own beauty shop in

Warrensburg, Missouri, and was known to be very particular about cleanliness, even wearing a white uniform much of the time.

Then, in 1970, when Ella's baby sister, Patsy, died in a car accident, Ella and Frank decided to relocate to Bulverde, Texas in order to help her widowed brother-in-law with their three children. Enjoying the warmer weather, this is where Ella would build an abundant life filled with wonderful neighbors and friends that became her family. Frank preceded her in death in 1991, after nearly 60 years of marriage.

Ella always spoke of keeping your mind and body active as a key in her longevity. She was an avid reader and assisted in the start-up of the Bulverde Public Library. Once she retired from paid employment, Ella continued to learn many new things. For example, she branched out in her wardrobe, purchasing and regularly wearing her first pair of jeans in her 90's! Ella also took up the game of tennis in her 60's, which became one of her favorite pastimes. She even helped give lessons in the Bulverde area. Ella continued to play regularly until her mid-90's.

Ella was never one to sit idle. She was usually busy working, learning, or playing something with someone! She lived an independent lifestyle, driving herself until the age of 102. She enjoyed her neighborhood walking group that would meet-up every Saturday morning. And although Ella was not a pet owner, she always fed and watered the birds - and tried to keep from feeding the deer. She especially looked forward to her visits from "Tom Turkey" when he was a roaming resident of their neighborhood.

Ella spent many hours of her week volunteering her time up until just after she turned 100 years old. She volunteered for 20+ years at North Central Baptist Hospital one day a week. She also spent part of every Monday at Bulverde United Methodist Church volunteering in the office for 20+ years. She was a

painter, a domino player, a gardener, a bunko player, and spent many hours down at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center (aka Bulverde Senior Center). Ella gifted many a family and friend with one of her beautifully-made quilts as well.

Ella was an avid Spurs fan and could be found most evenings watching them on television or listening to their games on the radio in her kitchen. A highlight was getting to meet then Spurs player, Malik Rose (fondly referred to as her boyfriend), in 2003 when she turned 90 years old.

At the very young age of 96, Ella was blessed with the birth of “her baby.” Her namesake – her great, great niece – was named in her honor, Ella Elizabeth Noble. Little Ella and Big Ella shared nearly seven years of joy and memory-making. Each mutually loved and adored the other.

Ella was known for being hard-headed, speaking her mind, and cracking jokes – even up until her very last days. Her driving motto seemed to be reflected in her approach to life, “If you aren’t going to drive fast, then get out of the way!” We love you and will keep your memory alive in our story-sharing – until we are reunited. For it is not goodbye, but rather, see you later!

Ella is survived by one brother-in-law, Dwight Clark, Spring Branch, TX, as well as numerous nieces and nephews, including: Phyllis Silvey Hansell (Edgar), Des Moines, IA; Calvin Brown (Carol), Warrensburg, MO; Jim Brown (Jackie), Bulverde, TX; Connie Williams (David), Leeton, MO; Robert Brown, Independence, MO; Mike Brown, Broken Arrow, OK; Paul Brown (Janet), Carthage, MO; Steve Brown (Betty), Buckner, MO; Bob Clark (Lynn), Hickory Creek, TX; David Clark (Vanessa), Spring Branch, TX; Larry Nelson, Raymore, MO. Additionally, Ella has numerous great as well as great, great nieces and nephews.

Ella's surviving family-friends include Hattie Anthony and her extended family, Bulverde, TX as well as Maurie and Mary Sue Kern, San Antonio, TX. These wonderful people have taken care of and kept an eye on Ella over the course of her many years in Texas. Without a doubt, she loved them as her family.

## SERVICES

Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. followed by the Service at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, February 27, 2017, at Mission Burial Park Mausoleum Chapel, 20900 IH 10 West. Interment will follow in the Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution in Ella's memory to the Bulverde Senior Center ~ 30280 Cougar Bend, Bulverde, TX 78163, Phone: (830) 438-3111 or to Bulverde United Methodist Church, 28300 Highway 281, North San Antonio, Texas 78260, Phone (830) 980-7745.

# Tribute Wall

HA

“ *Hattie lit a candle in memory of Ella Nelson*



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**Hattie** - February 26, 2017 at 09:10 PM

MB

“ *Ella Nelson was my father's cousin and so much more as my father was cared for by Jim and Ruby Brown her parents after dad lost his mother. Dad had such fond memories of the Brown family. Frank and Ella were my sisters' and my favorite relatives as they had a very robust sense of humor and never complained or gossiped just down to earth folks. Frank had a heart attack and was a patient at St. Lukes hospital and Ella stayed at our house, one morning a fierce snowstorm made Ella reluctant to drive herself with all those city crazies to the hospital. I volunteered to take her on my way to work and got her to the hospital. Funny I barely remember the incident but she referred to it numerous times over the years. A small gesture but it meant a great deal to Ella. I tried to stay in contact over the years through letters and phone calls. Someone invited us to her 100th birth day celebration but because of an ice storm sadly we were unable to attend. Ella you were an inspiration and a unique person that I was fortunate to know, more importantly you and the entire Brown family provided a family bond with my father Wilbor Bennett which I am grateful for your kindness and acceptance. Love you girl!*

*Michael Bennett*

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**Michael Bennett** - February 23, 2017 at 01:36 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - February 22, 2017 at 06:28 PM