



## Hilda Polk Cotton Nunn

January 25, 1919 - August 15, 2020

Hilda (HaHa) Polk Cotton Nunn, 101, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2020 in San Antonio, Texas. Hilda was a breast cancer survivor and was born and passed away during pandemics (Spanish Flu and Covid-19), though was never sick from either.

Hilda is survived by her beautiful daughters, Darwa Jean Cotton and Linda Carol (Roger) Munt, five grandchildren Darla (Michael), Tracy (Tim), Michael (Eilla), Christie (Jerry) and Courtney (John) and seven great grandchildren Jessica (Tim), Kaitlyn, Isabella, Alec, Sophia, Brenna and Avery. Hilda was preceded in death by her parents, Homer & Irma Polk, brother Dale Polk, sisters Lillian Bass and Elizabeth 'Ted' Bourne, and husbands Hershel Cotton and George Nunn.

She was the youngest in her family, born in 1919, on a New Hebron, Mississippi farm. She graduated from Prentiss High School in 1938 as Class President and Valedictorian. She enjoyed four years of playing basketball as the captain of the team. She always wore #3, her favorite number.

After high school, Hilda went to Little Rock, Arkansas to visit her aunt and cousin, and she loved it so much, she moved there. She got a job at Tuff-Nut Manufacturing Company. She hated the job but loved going out dancing! She met and married Hershel Cotton and had a daughter, Jean.

When World War II started, Hilda quit her job at Tuff-Nut Manufacturing Company and went to work for Ford, Bacon, & Davis – an ammunition plant (Arkansas Ordnance Plant). They made detonators, fuses, etc. for bombs. It was dangerous but exciting! They couldn't have over ten people working in one area at a time. When the superintendent asked, "Who will volunteer to be a powder weigher?" Everyone hesitated...the super added, "It pays more." Hilda quickly said, "I will!!" Her best friend also said she would. It turned out they had the best job and easiest one of all. They measured explosive powder for detonators. They wrote messages on the crates for the soldiers on the front line, "We love you", "Hugs & kisses", "Go get them", etc. She worked there for almost two years. In her lifetime, she was most proud of the work she did for the war effort. She said it was a very special time in our country. There was a feeling of community and family, everybody was working for one goal. "It was a sad time, but a wonderful time."

Hilda found out the bus company was hiring bus drivers, and she applied for and got the job. She loved it! They didn't have pants for women, so the company had pants made for her at a tailor shop. Hilda drove workers to their daily shifts at the ammunition plant, but her very favorite part was driving the soldiers to the base in Jacksonville, Arkansas, 20 miles from Little Rock. She also made trips to Camp Robinson. She drove the bus until the U.S. bombed Hiroshima, Japan and three days later, Nagasaki, ending the war. Everyone, including Hilda, went downtown and paraded for hours – horns blowing, hugging and kissing strangers.

The bus company started a car rental company and Hilda worked there as the switchboard operator and also approved the applications for car rentals. She worked there until her second daughter, Linda, was born. She then worked for the Little Rock Country Club, operating the switchboard and doing some bookkeeping. Hilda's brother-in-law convinced her and Hershel to move to

San Antonio, Texas, where he was going to medical school. The country club asked her to continue working but she told them, "I would love to, but can't. I'm moving to Texas!" She moved to Texas in 1951.

It just so happened, Fox Photo was looking for a switchboard operator. Hilda beat out another girl, got the job in 1952, and worked for Fox Photo for 33 years. The officers of Fox Photo gave her an expense paid dream vacation to Hawaii for two after she worked there 28 years and she became Honolulu Hilda! She retired in 1985 but continued going back and working for several years when they needed her. "It's a great day at Fox Photo!"

Hilda and Hershel divorced after 23 years. She remarried after 6 years to George Nunn. They were married for 15 years.

After Hilda retired, she joined a line dancing class and had so much fun! She danced with three different classes and one was a performing class. They danced for nursing homes and grand openings for apartments, libraries, etc. They danced for the Silver Stars, the girls' basketball team, and the Spurs! She met so many wonderful friends that she never would have, if not for dancing. Her great passion was dancing. She encouraged everybody to dance. Through the years, she competed in many couples dance competitions. Her favorite thing was to have a new dress and dance the night away with a great dancer!

Hilda always loved basketball and loved her San Antonio Spurs! She was their biggest fan and never missed a game. She kept a journal with all the scores, stats, and player information from her favorite team...she never missed a beat when it came to her Spurs.

Hilda was vivacious, witty, clever, and fun. She always made people around

her laugh and made friends everywhere she went. She had a “never grow old” attitude and was known for her entertaining stories from her many adventures. She was always fashionably dressed with perfect hair, makeup and nails. She was very competitive, loved chocolate, and loved to flirt! Hilda was incomparable, had an indomitable spirit and lived her life to the fullest! Known as the “Texas Cougar” to some in the family, you never knew what she was going to say next!

Whether it was her impromptu getting up on stage for a “leg contest” and winning (\$100 and champagne!), drag racing with young guys (“she knew she could take ‘em”), or dressing up on Halloween and trick-or-treating at her daughter’s house, Hilda was always wildly outrageous! She wrote a letter to the paper for a segment about favorite jeans and ended up being added to the story. In her segment, she talked about how her jeans made her feel sexy and gave her “courage, confidence, and determination”. A picture in her favorite jeans, which laced up the sides, was included. She celebrated her 100th birthday in style, with numerous parties and lots of fun and laughter! For once, she had to admit her true age!

Her secrets for a long, happy life? Dance as much as you can, have a bourbon & 7 (but not too much), wear makeup, make out with lots of good lookin’ guys, and learn how to lie convincingly about your age!

She loved to laugh, have fun and dance, dance, dance!!! It was an incredible journey and she did it her way. She touched many lives in her 101+ years and will be forever dancing and laughing in our hearts.

We would like to thank Embrace Hospice, especially Darla, RN, and Joann, for their loving care.

Burial at Sunset Memorial Park.



# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Park

1701 Austin Highway  
San Antonio, TX 78218

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ We will miss your bright and shining presence Hilda. Always a wonderful , and delightful Lady. We had such fun in New York.will always remember the fun times we’ve had Jean and Larry Rose

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**Jean Rose** - August 23, 2020 at 11:35 AM

GD

We will always remember Aunt Hilda for her kindness, beautiful smile, great style and wonderful personality. She lived a great life and will be missed. Blessings to her family.  
Glenda & John Dean (Gladys Nunn was my mother and she thought so much of Aunt Hilda).

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**Glenda Dean** - August 23, 2020 at 08:26 PM

LM

Thank you so very much Glenda, mom always loved your mother.  
Blessings, Linda and Roger Munt

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**linda munt** - August 26, 2020 at 09:19 PM

KF

“ HaHa was my great grandma! She is already incredibly missed, but her legacy will live on forever. I’ve been so fortunate in my life to have my great grandma around into my 20’s. She taught me to really just enjoy life. My favorite memory is when she would tell me how proud of me she is and how much she loves me. Love you always HaHa!

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**Kaitlyn Flora** - August 22, 2020 at 06:11 PM

TF

“ We loved HaHa.

*After finally admitting to being 100, she owned it. She reveled in all the parties and attention. At one party, as we were walking out of the restaurant, people were standing and clapping for her, shaking her hand, hugging her. She was like a celebrity and she loved it! When people asked her secret, she told us, “They don’t want to hear that you went to bed at 8:00 every night or took vitamins everyday. They want to hear some good stuff!” Of course, she obliged. Occasionally, she would put her tiara on and strut in and demand breakfast or something else funny. Her excuse for making a sassy comment became (with her hands on her hips), “After all, I am 100!” That gave her free rein!! I will miss you every single minute. Heaven doesn’t know what just hit it!!*

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**Tracy Flora** - August 20, 2020 at 11:02 PM

ST

*I’ve worked with HaHa’s grand daughter Tracy Flora for 30 years. I have always heard wonderful and hilarious stories of the “infamous HaHa”, although I never had the pleasure of meeting her. She was an amazing gal that ALL women should aspire to be like, although from her life’s stories, I think we may fall a little bit short! HaHa, you lived an amazing life and will be missed immeasurably. ❤️*

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**Sherryl Triplett** - August 21, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - August 20, 2020 at 09:19 AM

LR

*I was so very blessed to have know Hilda, a consider her a friend.  
We loved taking about the Spurs, she was most knowledgeable.  
It was so wonderful to celebrate their champions together.  
She has been such a inspiration for growing older.  
How active she stayed, her love for dancing, her great sense of humor,  
and how she took of herself. Her hair, nails, makeup and youthful, yet  
stylish wardrobe.  
She brought much to everyone she came in touch with, a very special  
lady that will be greatly missed.  
God be with her.*

*Linda Rees*

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**Linda Rees** - August 20, 2020 at 07:57 PM