



## Madge Houston Thornall Roberts

December 3, 1929 - October 24, 2016

Madge Houston Thornall Roberts, 86, beloved great, great granddaughter of Sam Houston, wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, passed away on October 24, 2016. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and colleagues.

Madge was born December 3, 1929 in Houston. After graduating from Lamar High School, she received a scholarship to Southwestern University in Georgetown, earning a degree in English and Journalism in only three years. She then began a successful teaching career in San Antonio, during which she received numerous accolades, including Teacher of the Year. While teaching, she obtained her Master of Education degree from Trinity University.

After retiring from 38 years in elementary education, Madge embarked upon a new career as a successful author of Texas History. She authored five books, including a biography of Sam and Margaret Lea Houston, *The Star of Destiny*, as well as four volumes of *The Writings of Sam Houston*. She was widely recognized as an authority on both Sam Houston and the Republic of Texas. She won numerous awards and was a sought-after speaker across the country. Her knowledge and expertise will be missed by those who continue to strive to keep the importance of Texas history alive for future generations.

Madge was a dedicated and active member of the Daughters of the Republic

of Texas (DRT). She was elected President of the Alamo Couriers Chapter and President General of the state DRT. She later served as Chairman of the Alamo for two years and was awarded the Alamo Battlefield Association Award for her work on the Wall of History, a permanent exhibit at the Alamo. Madge was also active in the San Jacinto Descendants, San Antonio Conservation Society, Writer's Guild, Texas State, East Texas, and San Antonio Historical Associations, and the San Antonio High School Coaches' Wives Association.

Madge was preceded in death by her parents C.E. and Marian Hearne Thornall and by her husband Charles Stanley Roberts. She is survived by daughter and son-in-law Cathy Lea and Bryce Jacobson and their sons Brett Houston and Blake Austin; and by son Charles Randall Roberts and his sons Travis Randall and Trevor Ryan. Other survivors include sister, Nancy Thornall Burch and children, Duncan Burch, Andrew and Cathy Burch with their children Caroline and Alex, and Bonnie Lea and Barry Ward with their daughter Emma Lea; and sister, Penny Thornall Remick and children, David Royston Remick and Lindsey Lea Hughes.

Madge worked tirelessly to maintain and support the DRT Library for the future. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, PO Box 1401, San Antonio, TX 78295-1401 or [www.drtd.org](http://www.drtd.org).

A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 3 at 2:00 at Mission Park North, 20900 IH 10 West.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Madge was a beautiful lady and will be missed by all who new her.Madge was a client at the Hair Clinic for a long time and I was Blessed to have known her.I pray the peace of God on the Robert's family during this time.With Deepest Sympathy, Julie Schroeder*

Julie Schroeder - December 02, 2016 at 08:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Madge Houston Thornall Roberts.*



December 02, 2016 at 01:36 PM

DG

“ *Prayers for Madge's family during this time of sorrow..I served with Madge on the Alamo Committee and also had the privilege of serving with Madge on the Wall of History project. The Daughters of the Republic have lost a true and dedicated Texas Woman. May she rest in peace.*



Darlene Tondre Glover - December 01, 2016 at 07:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Madge Houston Thornall Roberts.*



November 30, 2016 at 07:36 PM

FA

“ *To the Roberts family  
Was so sorry to hear of the passing of Madge. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family as you mourn her loss. May God strengthen and uplift you in this difficult time.*

*Frank & Sharon Arnold*

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**Frank Arnold** - November 27, 2016 at 01:32 PM

PA

“ *Cathy and Randy, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of my dear sweet friend Madge. She was a true Texas treasure. I will miss visiting with her on the phone, and especially attending DRT functions without her will be a challenge. She and I roomed together for the past 6 or 7 years, and always enjoyed one another's company. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the memorial service as I have a standing out of town weekend trip planned for the 1st weekend in December. Your family will be in my prayers as you face the holidays without your Mom.*

*Patti Atkins*

*Past President General 2009-2011*

*Daughters of the Republic of Texas*

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**Patti Atkins** - November 20, 2016 at 04:01 PM