



Mrs. Esta Mae Gressette

January 9, 1943 - April 10, 2019

Esta Mae Gressette, a resident of Willow Springs, passed away Wednesday, April 10, 2019 while at her daughter's residence. Born January 9, 1943 to Robert Steele and Gladys Etta (Warner) Blackwood in Athens, OH; she was 76 years old.

She grew up on a farm, winning pony races at the county fair on her pony, Sugar, even after Sugar had recovered from a broken hind leg the winter before. She showed dairy cattle, chickens, and other 4-H projects. Horses, dogs, and cats were considered members of her family all her life. Esta graduated from Rutland High School in 1960, and with a BS in Biology from Ohio University in 1964. She worked as a medical technologist in both Quest reference lab in Columbus and O'Bleness Hospital in Athens, OH. She moved to Georgia in 1980 and worked at Tift Regional, Fitzgerald and Phoebe Putney. She retired in 2015 after working for more than 50 years. She was a member of First United Methodist Church, active in Circle 9 and the church orchestra, where she played tenor saxophone. She was also a member of the Wiregrass Quilt Guild, completing more than 50 quilts and an active member of the Tifton Exchange Club. Three months after her husband passed away, she learned her colon cancer had returned and it was also in both lungs and needed treatment ASAP. In March of 2018, she moved in with her daughter and son-in-law for treatment in Missouri. This has been her "happy place" surrounded once again by farm animals. Her positive outlook and fighting

spirit stayed with her until the end. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a grandson, Jake Steele Carey in 2014 and her husband, Robert Bruce Gressette in 2017.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristina (Rob) Carey; grandson Cole Patrick Carey; a brother, Cecil Blackwood; step grandsons, Riley Carey and Justin (LeAnne) Carey; their children, Dawson and Rory of Alberta, Canada; and 6 dear cousins.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial donations be made to Old Dogs Sanctuary, PO Box 93, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121. Those wishing to send condolences directly to the family may do so to: Rob & Kristina Carey, 1358 Bradford Road, Willow Springs, MO 65793

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Tifton, GA. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. On-line condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

LM

“ My name is Lisa McGinty-Reynolds and I work in the lab at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia. I had heard from some of my co-workers that Esta had died, but just couldn't believe it. I had no idea she was sick. I had thought that maybe she had retired and was enjoying all the freedom that comes with that luxury, but was sadly mistaken.

Eventhough we worked in different departments with different hours, we managed to spend a few minutes talking when we saw each other.

I grew up riding horses and was pleasantly surprised to find out that she did also!! We had a great time talking about our love for the sport and breed and laughed at each others funny stories. She was always so sweet and a good listener and i could tell she had an enjoyable life. Really wish work had not gotten in the way and we had spent more time together.

This week our Administrative Assistant to the Director located this obituary and passed it around for all of us to read. I made a color copy for myself because I didn't want to forget what a great and funny lady she was and how our love of horses brought us moments of happiness.

Hopefully one day we will be able to sit together again and tell our stories and laugh like we did at work.....that would be something!!!

Blessings to you and enjoy your memories of her.

Lisa McGinty-Reynolds - August 09, 2019 at 10:54 AM

GT

“ I liked getting to know Esta after she married my cousin Robert. They traveled a lot of the time to visit Europe and Alaska. She spent a lot of time with him when his condition got worse up until he died. It was a pleasure to get to know her during that time and I know she will be missed. Gill Timpson

Gill D Timpson - April 22, 2019 at 07:52 PM

DE

“ I am a chaplain at Willow Care. I so enjoyed visiting with your mother! She was quite a lady. We clicked right away and spoke of many things. May she rest in peace.

Debbie Ebert - April 18, 2019 at 07:42 PM

SU

“ Esta was a dear, sweet lady who always put others first. I knew her from the quilt guild, and we kept in touch after she moved to Missouri. I am grateful to have known her.

Sue - April 15, 2019 at 04:38 PM

PP

“ Esta was such a sweet person. I knew her from Tift Regional . Always a smile. Sorry to hear of her passing.

Pam Pate - April 14, 2019 at 06:05 PM

CM

“ *Esta and I were coworkers and Blood Bank "partners" at Tift Regional Medical Center for many years. She also gave me a place to live when my apartment building caught fire. Such a wonderful lady. She taught me many things over the years! My deepest condolences to Kris and her family.*

Cindy Mitchell

Cindy Mitchell - April 12, 2019 at 02:35 PM

RB

“ *Esta became a friend when she joined our Singles Sunday School class at First Baptist Church in Tifton, GA. Many years ago. Before Robert. I helped with packing her up when she moved from Tifton. What a special friend she was. So many good memories.*

Rosemary M Barfield - April 12, 2019 at 09:28 AM

DC

“ *I am very sad to hear of the passing of Esta Mae. We were good friends and classmates at Rutland High School. God bless the family.*

Eloise (Musser) Carson

DAVID CARSON - April 12, 2019 at 12:47 AM

PC

“ *Esta Mae graduated high school in my class. I went out and rode up on her hills with her in Harrisonville. We took turns on her horse (also took her dog with us). I tried to write her online not long ago, but I didn't hear back. So sorry to hear of her passing. She was a very special gal.*

*Patty Young Clark
1960 class at Rutland H.S.*

Patty Clark - April 11, 2019 at 07:25 PM