



Mrs. Leota Hawkins

NOV 14, 1943 - JAN 19, 2018



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On January 19th, 2018 Leota Hawkins was called to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Leota was born November 14th, 1943 in Robbinsville North Carolina to Herthel and Ruth Daugherty. Leota is preceded in death by her husband Edward Hawkins, mother Ruth Daugherty, father Herthel Daugherty and sister in law Patsy Daugherty. Leota leaves behind son's Gregory McCool, his wife Tamalla and grandson Christian, son Robert McCool, his wife Janica and granddaughter Samantha, sister Jeanine and husband David (Smitty) Smith, brother Earl Daugherty, brother Ronnie and wife Micky Daugherty and numerous nieces and nephews and special friends.

Leota was raised modestly in the Smokey Mountains very close to a Cherokee Indian reservation. After Leota's father became ill at approximate age 17, the family moved to Galena Park, Texas. Leota adapted well to her new Texas home as she was a vibrant and strikingly beautiful woman who never met a stranger.

It wasn't long before she married Glen McCool, and began her own family. She had two sons Greg and Robert. After six years, the marriage ended, and Leota settled close to her mother Ruth, sister Jeanine and brothers Earl and Ronnie. Although deeply hurt, Leota's attitude and tenacious spirit wouldn't allow her to dwell on the past. She said "I have two young sons who depend on me, so I have to be strong". Leota was a dedicated mother. She spent all of her non working time raising her sons with a commitment to imparting strong morals and christian principles.

In 1970, Leota met the love of her life, or as she would say "my soulmate" Edward (Poppy) Hawkins, and that's when her fun filled journey began. She said "when I saw his blue eyes dancing, I knew something exciting was about to happen"! Leota admittedly kept her makeup fresh with her purse and bags packed. She was always ready to experience whatever spontaneous trip she and Ed would take. Most trips included impromptu visits to the local diner, meeting family or friends and even cross country adventures.



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After years in Galena Park, Ed bought Leota her first new home nearby in North Shore. Leota loved her home and relished in hosting numerous family and friend events and parties. Ed loved and raised the boys as his own. Ed and Leota loved to visit family and actively participating in their grandchildren Samantha and Christian's lives. As time flew by, with a no regrets attitude, Leota and Ed were able to live out great family memories. Most of which were holidays, birthdays, vacations and countless simple random gatherings. Ed and Leota also spent time with his brother Alfred and childhood friends Charles and Becky Simmons. They would laugh when talking about the about the good old days, and were even able to make many new memories later in life.

Ed and Leota also shared in the passion of helping others. This was demonstrated though countless examples of kind acts in offering both their time and financial support to many in need. They found purpose through giving and considered helping others to be fun and fulfilling, not even realizing how inspiring as role models they were to family and friends.

Leota also liked to shop and dress nicely. She was mindful of her appearance and always wore cute and fashionable outfits, and of course with stylish shoes to match. Ed would take Leota shopping while he sat on the bench "people watching". She would spend hours looking, picking through items and even sorting and folding clothes that were out of place. Afterwards, Ed would take Leota to Luby's cafeteria where they would eat lunch and drink coffee. Leota jokingly claimed that her famous homemade spaghetti and biscuits and gravy were what landed Ed. Although we are sure it didn't hurt, everyone knew that Ed had fallen deeply in love. This bond of love was demonstrated by how Ed chose to spend his time. After retiring from the Port of Houston, Ed and Leota were virtually inseparable for the next twenty years.

After the passing of her beloved husband Ed, Leota settled in Conroe next to her son Robert, his wife Janica, daughter Samantha and Janica's mother Janice and husband Greg Dyson. Janice became a close friend of Leota's as well as a bible study and Sunday school partner. And it didn't take Leota long to make friends and find a local church in Willis First Baptist.

Leota even surprised us all as her grief group experience quickly transitioned from receiving help to giving help. Leota loved God, and yes rekindled her passion and purpose for helping others. For recovery, she also began to pour herself into family activities emphasizing her grandchildren, nieces and nephews as demonstrated by the myriad of pictures displayed in her home and in her photo albums. Leota bonded with her granddaughter Samantha and grandson Christian.



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Samantha and Leota would cook together and Leota voluntarily picked Samantha up from school and shared conversation of the day's events. Leota also taught Christian to cook. Of course, we are sure Christian did more of the eating, and took full advantage of being spoiled by his mamaw. Leota valued the time spent next door to her youngest son Robert who would randomly stop in for coffee. She said "it always makes me so happy to see Robert walking up my driveway".

Leota also loved visiting her sister Jeanine and husband Smitty, Jeanine's children and significant others including John and Kelly, Matthew and Summer. Leota's face would light up when talking about and showing pictures of Jeanine's grandchildren Halle, Eleanor and Elijah. One of Leota's hobbies was sewing. She was creative and enjoyed sewing projects in making clothes for the kids. In particular, Leota thoroughly enjoyed sewing with her sister Jeanine and Jeanine's daughter in law Summer Smith. Leota also enjoyed long conversations with her brother Earl, and the occasional visits to see Earl, his son Lee and wife Michelle.

In the spirit of giving, Leota volunteered with H2U at the hospital and made many friends there as well. Leota was always excited about traveling, meeting new people and experiencing new things. She took a number of scheduled bus trips with her H2U friends to casinos in Louisiana and Mississippi. She also cherished vacations with her sister Jeanine and Smitty to Florida to visit Leota's favorite Aunt Edna. Leota developed life long friendships while in Conroe. She studied scripture, was uplifting, listened attentively and even drove friends to doctor visits. In six short years, it is amazing how many lives Leota touched during the last chapter of her life.

In summarizing Leota's life, she was visionary in that she thought about the future, but lived life in the present. She was always uplifting, inspiring and complimentary to others. On the occasion when she gave constructive criticism, it was sensitively delivered and well deserved and you knew it. Leota's life brings to mind Mother Teresa quotes "Peace begins with a smile" and "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier"

Leota was a devoted wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend. She was "one of a kind with a bigger than life presence". We will selfishly miss her conversations, her energy, her smile, her voice, her positivity, her genuine love and goodness. Ironically, Leota's greatest attribute was her heart, a heart that failed her in the end. A loving heart never to be replaced. A heart that incessantly cared and gave selflessly to those blessed to know her. All we can do is thank the Lord for allowing us to experience Leota's love as an angel on earth, apply lessons learned from her, and pray that God protects her and uses her as a special angel to fulfill His will.



Events

Mrs. Leota Hawkins

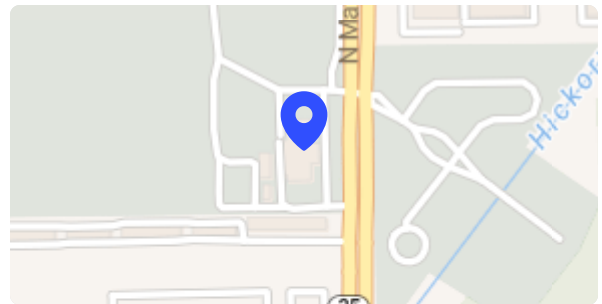
NOV 14, 1943 - JAN 19, 2018

Visitation

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT

South Park Funeral Home and Crematory
1310 North Main Street, Pearland TX 77581

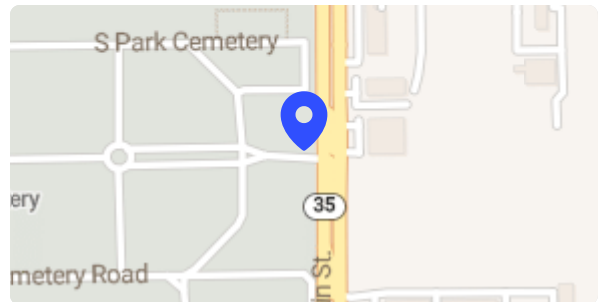


Funeral Service

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

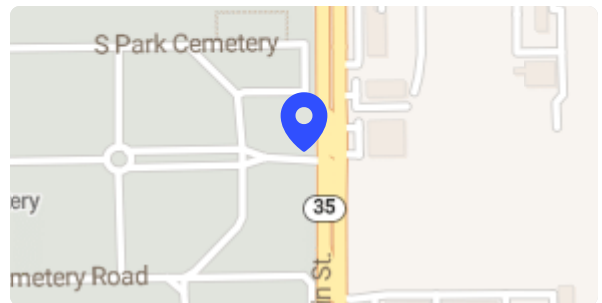
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM CT

South Park Cemetery
1310 North Main St., Pearland TX 77581



Cemetery Details

South Park Cemetery
1310 North Main St., Pearland TX 77581





Tribute Wall

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LC

Linda Collier posted:

We first met Leota Hawkins and her friend Darlene at the grief group at the First United Methodist Church of Conroe. We laughingly called them the "Cherry Hills Girls" as they were neighbors. We would see them at grief meetings and then Darlene had to enter a facility for early dementia and it broke Leota's heart to lose her friend that way. We would then see Leota at the Lift Luncheons on the last Mondays of each month. We always sat and visited together. We also would visit Leota in her home. She did have a great love of her late husband and her family and spoke fondly of her children and grandchildren. We were shocked to learn in mid February that Leota had passed away. Had we known we would have traveled anywhere to attend her services. No one in the grief group knew and nothing was posted in the local paper. We are so sorry for your loss and I'm sure that she has left a big hole in your family unit. We certainly miss her a lot and will continue to do so for a long time to come. Again our condolences to your family. Linda Collier

February 26 at 1:09 PM

ES

Ellen Silhan posted:

I met Leota through volunteering with H2U. She was a loving, caring and happy lady that always greeted me with a smile when I'd see her at church. She will be missed by all of her friends at First Baptist. Ellen Silhan

February 4 at 3:23 PM

GR

Greg shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Mom, it's only been a few weeks, but we really miss you. Per your request, we will try to be strong and carry on. Your house is still the same with everything in place. Sitting in the living room, we can still see the many golfers pass through your back window. Although your home has a comforting and loving spirit, it will never be the same without you.



February 1 at 2:43 PM



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JS

Jean Spillman lit a candle in honor of Leota.

Liota Hawkins was my best friend. We were strangers when we shared a seat on a bus and fast friends by the time we reached our destination. We spent a great deal of time together eating out, shopping and going on some of the H2U trips. Liota helped me through a time when I was having problems mainly still grieving the death of my husband and caring for my elderly mother. She was always there for me encouraging and offering kind and practical advice. We talked every day and shared our ups and downs. Liota was a woman of great faith and always reminded me to put my faith in God when I was searching for the right answers. Liota loved her family and shared many wonderful stories. Although I only knew her a couple of years, I felt as if I had known her my whole life. I am comforted by the fact that I know Liota is with the angels and her beloved Edward. I will miss her everyday. Jean Spillman



January 25 at 7:46 AM

DS

David Stanczak January 11 at 6:08 PM

Jean. I worked with Edward in my youth aboard the Sam Houston tour boat and was very close to him and Liota. I have thought of them many times in the years since and failed unsuccessfully to reconnect with them. Should you see this message I have questions about their lives since we lost contact. Please if you see this reach out to me on Facebook or email me at stanczak53@live.com. Thanks

AF

Alpha Farmer lit a candle in honor of Leota.

January 24 at 1:02 PM



BS

Becky Simmons posted:

Leota was a wonderful friend and I will miss her, we had so much fun with her and Edward. I love Leota very much and I can't believe she is gone. We had some wonderful times together on trips and visiting each other. There will never be any one like her. She was a real friend and always positive. Love you Leota. I know you can hear me. I will always remember you and Edward. Becky Simmons

January 24 at 6:31 AM



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SB

Scott Blanchard posted:

Wonderful lady raised to boys well over 6ft and well over 200lbs... Kept them in line like they were baby kittens.. Always a smile and great attitude... RIP Leota you will be missed..Thoughts and prayers to The Mccool and Hawkins family..ScottBlanchard

January 24 at 5:24 AM

MW

Michael S Wilde lit a candle in honor of Leota.



January 24 at 4:45 AM

CW

Carol J Wilde lit a candle in honor of Leota.



January 23 at 9:55 AM

LP

Linda Patrick posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I can only imagine that Leota & Edward are happy to be together now. Your words in her obituary were 100% correct. Leota was always happy and up beat. A genuine loss for all.

January 23 at 9:40 AM

LM

Lucille & Oscar Martinez sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Hawkins family.



January 23 at 8:55 AM



Media

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Greg shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 1 at 2:43 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leota by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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