



## Mary Garland Collier

September 1, 1934 - August 7, 2024

Mary Garland Collier passed away on August 7, 2024. She was 89 years old.

Mary was born on September 1, 1934, to Edward Franklin Johnson and Mary Everett Johnson in Longview, Texas. The family moved to Houston and that's where Mary rode the bus to work her first job at a department store downtown. She graduated from Sam Houston High School, and later met her husband, David Lee Collier. David was a police officer with The City of Houston and had three small children when they married. In addition to her stepchildren, Mary and David had a daughter and continued to raise her together after they divorced.

She was a hard worker, and often worked more than one job at a time. She retired from the Texas Workforce Commission where she always treated others with kindness and respect. Many people would come back to thank her for helping them to find employment.

She leaves behind her family; brother Peter C. Johnson, daughter Mary Cox and husband Kevin, stepson David Collier and wife Cindy, stepson Wendell Collier and wife Ann, and grandchildren Natasha Wilson, Ethan Clements, Elyssa Wakefield, and McKenzie Clements.

Mary thought her grandchildren were the smartest, talented, most handsome and beautiful people in the world and could absolutely do no wrong.

Unfortunately for them, great grandchildren Carter, Malia, and Cameron came along and stole the limelight. She loved them so much and always had

cookies and snacks, coloring books, crayons, and find the hidden object worksheets for them when they came to visit. The best part for them was being allowed to use her special magnifying glass to search for the object on the worksheet. They were able to spend special time with her and affectionately came to know their GiGi.

She also leaves a lifetime of memories, funny stories, and helpful tips like don't throw away old pantyhose, they can be used for almost anything from garden ties to keeping lids on boxes.

Her true hobby was her love of books. She shared her passion for reading by starting a library at Crossroads Nursing and Rehabilitation Center where she resided the last few years. She spent many hours categorizing, alphabetizing, shelving, and displaying the many boxes of books that had been donated. The center bought the shelves and set them up per her instructions on where they were to be placed. She wanted everything to be wheelchair accessible.

She was a no-nonsense woman and gave her opinions freely. For this, a few apologies need to be given to some teachers and principals who dared to reprimand her daughter. They were informed it must have been the teacher's fault that her child talked too much in class.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents Edward and Mary Johnson, her brothers Timothy Johnson and Michael Johnson, and her stepdaughter Cynthia England.

Her feistiness served her well throughout her life. Even in the last months with us, she was full of strong will and determination. She will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered.

A Memorial Service for Mary Garland will be held at The First Methodist Church in Normangee on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 17. 2:00 PM.

The First Methodist Church - Normangee  
Normangee, TX