



Charlene Brown

April 4, 1930 - August 17, 2014

Charlene "Char" Brown, 84, of Tioga, passed away Sunday, August 17, 2014 in Tioga, TX. She was born April 4, 1930 in Callisburg, TX to Otis and Nell (Gordon) Renfro. She was raised in Tioga with one sister, Jen, graduated from Tioga High School in 1947, and studied briefly at The University of North Texas. Eager to join the workforce, she moved to Dallas to work, and eventually did some modeling, for Tiche-Goettinger Department Store at 1900 Elm Street, Downtown Dallas. While at home for a visit, she was introduced to a young Aggie, Herman Brown of Whitesboro. Drawn to his wild side, promise for adventure and rugged good looks, it was clearly love at first sight for everyone except her mother, whose protests failed to deter her from marrying the love of her life on August 20, 1952. A whirlwind honeymoon in Galveston and a move to Bryan to complete the one semester left until his graduation from A&M, she described them as "poor as Jobe's turkey" but happier than imaginable. Upon graduation, Herman began his career in the Army, serving in Korea where he first met a little girl he named, Suzie. After an adoption process, Herman and Suzie came home where she met Char for the first time. With two more children adopted, daughter, Lori, and son, Jeff, a Master's degree and PhD earned, they decided Herman should return to Texas A&M where he served as professor and later as Department Head of Agriculture Education and she served as temporary Mother to lowly and homesick Aggies and ambassador of Aggie Spirit. They would raise their family and continue to live in College Station until Herman's retirement in 1991. Returning to their

roots, they moved to Tioga, Char's home town, the same year. In an unexpected turn of events, Herman passed away in 1993, leaving Char to search deep within herself to find what she was capable of accomplishing on your own after his death and find it, she did. Vested in the success and growth of Tioga, she began accepting invitations to serve on steering committees and in various roles promoting economic development, including the Tioga Chamber of Commerce, the Gene Autry Museum and any other opportunity to educate the public on the level of potential found in Tioga. She was a lifelong Methodist with longest memberships including Tioga United Methodist Church in Tioga and A&M United Methodist Church in College Station. Charlene is survived by her son, Jeff Brown of Tioga, TX; two daughters, Suzie and husband Rick Lee of Corpus Christi, TX, Lori and husband Bob Hammers of Sunnyvale, TX; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Herman; and sister, Virginia Grundei. Visitation will be held 7:00PM - 8:00PM, Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at Slay Memorial Chapel in Aubrey, TX. A funeral service will be held at 10:00AM, Thursday, August 21, 2014 at First United Methodist Church in Tioga, TX with Rev. Carroll Caddell, Mead McGee, and Rev. Dee Morton officiating. Burial will follow at Tioga Cemetery in Tioga. On-line condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com. Memorials may be made to Tioga United Methodist Church Building Fund. The family would like to thank everyone for the many acts of love and kindness. "To give pleasure to a single heart by a single act is better than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." -Gandhi Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center, Pilot Point.

To send a flower arrangement to the family of Charlene Brown, please click [here](#) to visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Dear Brown Family, my dear son Matt just emailed Chars obituary & her photo looks as charming as the last time I saw her. I feel so awful about not reaching day out to so many in the last 3 yrs. but after Dee died Dec. 1st 2011 I simply starting living day by day & thanking God for each day. Such a change in ones life is hard to move forward. As my Matt said he has so many wonderful memories of the Browns. I do want you all to know our Family over the years thought often of all of you. I truly loved Chars obituary & my Matt said "this is so Mrs. Brown & that's exactly as she should be remembered." My love & hugs to all of you. Fondest Regards, Mrs. Pat McIntyre email -

PAT MCINTYRE - February 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Dear Susie, Laurie & Jeff ;I just read the article about your mothers passing away. We just returned from a one year consulting opportunity in Southern California. Your parents always welcome me to discuss my future and family. They were truly generous to me with their insights and guidance at the Lee street residence. Nelson Surovik "81"

Nelson Surovik - November 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KY

“ Dear Susie, Laurie and Jeff. I just read about your mothers death and wanted to write a short note. I remember your parents well. I remember your folks from church at A&M Methodist and Susie of course, I remember you from school. I lost my mother a few years ago and know something of what you are feeling. Your mom was a special lady. I am sorry for your loss.

Kathy Lofgren Young - August 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

D'

“ The Aggies are mourning the loss of Mrs. Brown. We moved to Bryan/College Station in 1967, so that my Father could go to work in the Ag. Education Department at A&M and work with Dr. Herman Brown. We became members of A&M United Methodist Church. Mrs. Char Brown was my 2nd grade Sunday school teacher at A&M Methodist. I feel as though my life was blessed from having known them.

David Walkup '87 - August 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Suzie, Lori and Jeff, I just found at this morning. or I would have been there for you all. Your mom was a glorious, classy and beautiful woman. Such fond childhood memories I cherish in my heart. Love and prayers for you all. Love, Brenda Brown Spence

August 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AO

“ Jeff, Suzie, & Lori and all of Char's family-thank you all for sharing her with all the Aggies over the years. We truly appreciate it. We knew her as Mama B, she was Mom to you all and Texas A&M she was a great spirit of hope and optimism. That spirit gave her strength in her final struggle to give us all a positive attitude. Taking some us in for a 'job' of cleaning their saved items from a house fire, both Mama B and Dr. Brown welcomed us and fed us after the day. Thank you for everything you taught me about education and life. Adrian O'Hanlon '84

Adrian O'Hanlon - August 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Suzie, Lori, and Jeff - thank you for sharing your mom with all the lonely Aggies who were welcomed at the Brown home on Lee Street and sat at your kitchen table for a meal and fellowship. We all felt like your extended family and loved your parents dearly. For all my remaining days, I will always carry a warm memory of Char Brown, my second mother. You and your families are in our prayers.
J. C. Colton Class of '78 & '79

J. C. Colton - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I know that MAMA B had three formally-adopted children. But some may not know that she had literally hundreds--no, THOUSANDS of AGED Aggies whom she "adopted" figuratively if not formally. And, quite frankly, figuratively is not correct either. While it wasn't formal, her adoption of many an Aggie was REAL as evidenced by the love and care that she extended to so many. I am one of those! I first met Dr. Herman Brown and Mrs. Charlene Brown in spring 1969--as I was graduating from Navasota High School. Little did I know that my adoption as as AGED AGGIE was underway. For the next 34 years, Herman Brown served as a professional dad for me. Mama B served similarly, never failing to compliment or cajole as needed. She was my professional mother, then for 45 years! Suzie, can you believe that it's been that many years--actually, 46--since Navasota H S played A&M Consolidated H S, and you were one of the AMC cheerleaders who urged your team to victory. Lorie, you were an officer in FTA--as I recall--when I returned to TAMU in 1980. Your mom and dad were so proud of you. And Jeff, your mom and dad had their hands full with you, but they were equally proud of you as a son and as a dad. Bebe and Grumps were so proud of their "four jacks and a queen." I know the family has grown beyond that now, but it's what I remember. My hope for all of us is that the fond memories and good times can soon replace the loss we feel now. We know that HERMAN and CHAR are re-united in health and happiness as they look down on the many, many lives that they touched--even MOLDED--over the many years. God bless them--and us as we grieve. We simultaneously celebrate their reunion and Mama B's freedom from pain and suffering.

Gary Briers - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Praying for the Brown family in your time of loss. Char Brown will be missed by many Aggies! Julie Harlin class of 1993

Julie Harlin - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ *To the families of Char Brown: So sorry for the loss of a great lady. Dr. Brown was our campus dad, and MRS. BROWN was our MOTHER. Respectfully, Larry Ermis, Aggie Class of 1968*

Larry Ermis - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ *My condolences to the family. Char loves Tioga and was very involved in life around the area. May your memories of her bring comfort to all of you. Elaie (Baughman) Primm*

Elsie Primm - August 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM