

## Helen Sue Halter



We are heartbroken to announce that Helen Sue Halter (Sue) of Georgetown and, more recently, Round Rock, joined heaven's angels on December 9, 2022, just 20 days from her 100th birthday. Sue was born December 29, 1922, in Cairo, Tennessee, and was one of 10 children, including five brothers and four sisters. Her childhood years were spent on a farm in the hills of Bethpage, Tennessee. Her family shared life, love, laughter, and squabbles in a small log cabin where the family of 12 lived. She was sixth in the birth order, and to her surprise and bewilderment, she survived all her siblings and many friends through the years. Her loved ones attribute her longevity to her pursuit of bringing joy, a strong determined spirit, and a holistic outlook, years ahead of her time and generational thinking. All who love her will greatly miss her independent spirit and exuberant joy.

Sue was a World War II Army Veteran and cancer survivor. She worked for over 30 years as a bookkeeper at Telsco Industries (Garland) and was active in her church. As a loving wife, Mom, friend, and neighbor, she always had time to listen and demonstrated daily how to passionately live life to the fullest while bringing joy to all those she touched. The holidays were her favorite times of the year, full of decorations, costumes, baking, the joy of gift-giving, laughing, and being with friends and family. There was always time for cards, dominos, or board games throughout her life!

Sue is preceded in death by her parents, William Tomkins Darnall and Frances Adeline Swaney Darnall; her brothers, Ted Darnall, Billy Darnall, James Darnall, Jack Darnall, and Forrest Darnall; her sisters, Dorothy Iomogene Moore, Frances Ann (Frankie) Ruth, Margaret D. Smith, and Selma D. Hoster and Sue's husband of 43 years, Barton Halter.

She is survived by her son, Jim Halter and his wife, Judy Halter; grandchildren, Nick Hardin and his wife, Starr Hardin; Christina Franklin and husband, Walter Franklin, and two great-grandchildren, Matthew Bailey, and Christian Hardin, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In honor of Sue's life, a memorial service will be held on her 100th birthday, December 29, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. at Cook-Walden Davis Funeral Home, 2900 Williams Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78628, with Jonathan Bergman from Altus Hospice officiating. Food and fellowship will follow the service.

If you wish to donate in her memory, please do so to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Audubon Association, or North American Butterfly Association.

## Jean Norma Sears Keckler



Jean Norma Sears Keckler died in Georgetown on Friday, December 9 at Tiffin House Assisted Living & Memory Care. Jean was 84 years old.

She was born in Wade, Maine. The youngest of six children born to Roy and Maud Sears. The family moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, where Jean met and married her high school sweetheart, Claude Keckler, in 1961. They lived in several places before moving to Sun City, where they resided until his passing in 2015, then Jean lived at The Oaks retirement community until she moved into Tiffin House in August of 2022.

Jean was a 1985 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Christopher Newport College in Newport News, Virginia, where she was the recipient of many honors with a degree in Fine Arts and Philosophy. Jean was an avid reader of books about earth's Blue Zones, ancient history, and religions. She was also a collector of cookbooks from foods around the world. Though most of her married life was as a homemaker, a favorite job was as a historical guide for tourists in Colonial Williamsburg.

She and Claude were 2005 graduates of the Georgetown Citizens Police Academy and served as volunteers with the police department and were founding members of the Georgetown Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (GCPAAA). Both were active volunteers with the Blue Santa program and other police service projects. Jean retired from volunteering in 2015 but remained an active supporter of Blue Santa and projects of the GCPAAA.

Jean is preceded in death by her parents, husband Claude, brothers Wallace and Neal Sears, and sisters Phyllis Webb, Alma Rushton, and Lois Hamm. She is survived by nephews Dennis Sears of Niceville, Florida, Dwight Sears of Garland, Tracy Sears of Plano, Dennis Webb of New Orleans, Louisiana, Danny Herron of Flint, and nieces, Denna Stout of Athens, Sandra Webb of Anna, and Noreen Wilson of Hitchcock.

A celebration of her life will be held when her ashes are distributed by family members in places she loved or loved to travel. Her family and close friends offer a special thanks to all who helped make her life a little richer. Jean will be missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her and working with her. Memorial donations may be made to Tiffin House in Georgetown, or to the Georgetown Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association in Georgetown. Contact information may be found online for Tiffin House or the Georgetown Police Department.

## Frank Augustus Tompkins II



Frank Augustus Tompkins II passed away peacefully on November 23, 2022, in Austin, Texas, surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Frank was born in Corpus Christi on August 29, 1935, to John L. and Cora Lee McDonald Tompkins. He was educated in Corpus Christi, and in 1953 was a member of the very first graduating class of W.B. Ray High School. Frank received his Bachelor of Business Administration in 1958 from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was also a proud brother of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

In 1958, he became a partner in property development and home-building in his father's firm, John L. Tompkins & Company, established 1920, with offices in Corpus Christi and South Padre Island. He instructed real estate classes at Del Mar Community College from 1963-1974, and in 1970, he completed the course regimen and graduated from the National Real Estate Institute with the GRI designation. Alongside his brother-in-law, Lawrence A. Young, Frank began Tompkins/Young Real Estate Gallery of Homes in 1973. From 1973-1985, he served on the Texas Realtors Political Action Committee, and was elected chairman from 1983-1986 of the TREPAC. In 1985-1987, Frank was appointed to the Texas Real Estate Commission by Governor Mark White.

After a successful career in Corpus Christi, Frank and his wife, Perry moved to Georgetown, Texas in 2000, where he served on the Pulte/Del Webb Sun City. New Home sales team, and was awarded Top in Customer Satisfaction in 2005 and 2006. He retired in 2007.

As a long-time resident of Corpus, Frank was extremely active in many facets of the community, including serving as chairman of the March of Dimes throughout the 1960s; Corpus Christi Rotary Club; and President of the Corpus Christi Board of Realtors. He was campaign manager for Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz for 20 years, beginning with Ortiz's ground breaking tenure as Sheriff of Nueces County and on to his election to the United States Congress.

Frank was an avid basketball player and enjoyed playing for the YMCA, Parkway Presbyterian Church league, and he went on to coach youth leagues and his children's school teams.

In 1965, Frank married his sweetheart and soulmate Perry LaRue, and the two of

them embarked on 571/2 spectacular, fun-filled years together; laughter and love were the hallmarks of their marriage. They were blessed with three children, Elisha, Stevens, and Elizabeth.

Frank was optimistic, positive, welcoming, and warm; he never met a stranger, and greet-

ed all he encountered with a sparkling smile and charming, rascally wit. He was encouraging and supportive, and had an infectious appreciation for life and adventure that he shared with everyone around him. He was a curious, adventurous soul, piloting small planes for business and pleasure, bungee jumping at age 56, camping, and soaking up the sunrise on Corpus Christi Bay or tackling the Pecos River, both on his trusty kayak. He was the back-seat road trip "nest maker" extraordinaire and summer camp super dad. Frank was always singing, whistling, or doing a jig, and he went out of his way to make even the most mundane of tasks or events special and memorable. He was immensely and happily involved in his children's and grandchildren's lives, always showing up for school plays, swim meets, recitals, final campfires, or just because. His signature saying was "I don't *have* to — I *get* to!", and his glass was not only half-full, it was overflowing. He relished finding creative solutions and building a better mousetrap, and his core principles were "motivation, problem-solving, guidance, and discipline."

Frank is survived by his wife, Perry; children, Elisha LaRue Tompkins, Stevens McDonald Tompkins, Elizabeth Adele Tompkins; grandchildren, Kiersten Jannigje Inserni, Kees Alexander Inserni, Kathleen Adele Tompkins, Perry Elisha Tompkins; step-grandchildren Thomas, Jesse, and Robert; sister Carolyn Tompkins Young and brother-in-law Lawrence A. Young; brother-in-law, George Nelson LaRue; and nieces, Lynda Young Kaffie (Harris) and Debra Young Hatch (Richard).

Our sweet, wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend Frank will be deeply missed, but his memory will live in our hearts forever.

"I'm better now that *you're* here!" -Frank A. Tompkins II. In lieu of flowers, you may donate to the charity of your choice. A private family service was held December 12 in Corpus Christi.

### Cook-Walden Davis

Funerals & Cremations

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(512) 863-2564

dignitymemorial.com



gabrielsfuneral.com

Obituaries may be e-mailed to  
obit@wilcosun.com

Monday at 5 p.m. for Wednesday,  
Thursday at 5 p.m. for Sunday.

## Giving back to the library

The Georgetown Public Library staff really enjoy hearing from our patrons that ours is their favorite library. We never get tired of it! It is very gratifying

to hear that people love our library in a special way—not just the way all libraries are beloved, but for its individual qualities and unique services. That kind of appreciation helps keep us going and keeps the smiles on our faces.

Library patrons sometimes ask how they can help the library. There are three broad ways to support the library's work: donating funds, donating materials and donating time.

### Donating Funds

- Donate financially to the nonprofit Friends of the Georgetown Public Library. The Friends fund many of the library's special programs and projects, such as the exhibit lighting recently added to the second-floor art gallery space and the monthly Live Music at the Library concerts. The group holds fundraising events like the Hill Country Authors Series, and they operate the Second-Hand Prose bookstore on the second floor. Thus far in 2022, they have made grants to the library totaling \$107,000. Donations to the Friends can be made at [folgeorgetown.org/](http://folgeorgetown.org/) donate. Funds donated to the Friends group are tax-deductible.

- Shop at Second-Hand Prose. At any given time, the bookstore has thousands of items available on the shelf, and it is surprising how often patrons find just what they were looking for. Collector's Corner items have prices marked but most are simply purchased by donation — whatever the purchaser wants to and can afford to give. More valuable books are also listed online through Ebay and Amazon Marketplace. More information about Second-Hand Prose is at [folgeorgetown.org/book-sales/second-hand-prose](http://folgeorgetown.org/book-sales/second-hand-prose).

- Donate financially to the library. Financial donations help us fund initiatives that exceed the bounds of our regular City of Georgetown budget. Donations can be made by check, card, or cash at the library's first-floor circulation desk, or through the mail by check. Donors can specify whether they'd like their donation to be used to fund programs and events, or the library's collections, or wherever the need is greatest. Funds donated directly to the library are tax-deductible.

### Donating Materials

- Donate used books, audiovisual materials, or magazines for Second-Hand Prose. Books

### BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

and audiovisual materials go to the Friends group to be sold. Evaluating, categorizing and pricing materials is all done by Friends volunteers. This year, with 2022 almost coming to an end, the bookstore has sold 42,000 books and media items to raise funds for the library.

- Donate a copy of your own book for the Local Authors Collection. Authors who reside within Williamson County are invited to donate a copy of any book they have published in the last five years for inclusion in this new collection on the first floor. Librarians will catalog the item so it can be found by the public, and then it will be available for check-out. Local authors can request a copy of the Local Authors Collection form and policy at the first-floor circulation desk.

- Make a Conditional Donation of a book for the library's collection. Aside from Local Author Collection items, we usually don't add donated materials to the collection, but if you own a title that you want us to consider, just complete a Conditional Donation form at the first-floor circulation desk so a librarian can review your offer. Note that any book left at the library before librarian review may be passed on to Second-Hand Prose.

### Donating Time

- Volunteer with the library. Our GPL volunteers are crucial to daily library operation. They empty the book drops, check materials in and shelve them, laminate and cover new books and more. Adults (ages 18 and over) and teens (ages 13-17) can pick up a volunteer application at the first-floor circulation desk or download and print one at [library.georgetown.org/volunteer-at-the-library](http://library.georgetown.org/volunteer-at-the-library).

- Volunteer with the Friends. Our Friends group volunteers are our biggest fundraisers and cheerleaders. The group has more than 1,000 members and it is the second-largest library Friends group in Texas! There are many different roles to play within the organization. More information about volunteering with the Friends is available at [folgeorgetown.org/volunteer](http://folgeorgetown.org/volunteer).

Whether they give us words of appreciation, funds, materials or time, the library staff are grateful to all our Georgetown Public Library supporters.

Dana Hendrix is the Technical Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library. For more information about the library, visit [library.georgetown.org](http://library.georgetown.org) or call 512-930-3551.

## County health benefits committee reappoints three familiar faces

Williamson County commissioners discussed on Tuesday, December 13, who would serve on the Williamson County Benefits Committee.

On the board are James Carmona, assistant chief deputy for the sheriff's office; Cathy Mendoza, chief deputy for the district clerk's office; and Mike Knipstein, director of Emergency Management Services. All three were up for reappointment for an additional three-year term which will expire on December 31, 2025. The County Judge is a permanent position on the Benefits Committee and is not included in the rotation.

"One of the most enjoyable things I get to do is serve on the benefits committee," County Judge Bill Gravell said. "The benefits affect all our county employees.

"Your health benefits are important to the benefits committee and to the commissioners court. We want to provide the best tools we can for you as a family to be healthy and successful."

In January of last year, James Carmona and Mike Knipstein were recommended to fill two vacant positions on the board, which is responsible for determining health and other benefits for county employees.

"James Carmona offers real insight from our [law enforcement] and corrections community," Mr. Gravell said. "Cathy Mendoza is newer to the committee, but she's from the district clerk's office. Mike Knipstein offers a lot of input."

Commissioners voted to appoint the three to the committee again. Mr. Gravell said he is excited for the future of the group.

"Ten years ago when I became a county employee, I felt the benefits committee was reactionary," he said. "I believe through the leadership today that we're proactive and being assertive in taking care of our employees' health and wellness."

— Kate St.Clair

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