



## Frances Marie Franklin

March 8, 1929 - January 31, 2011

Frances Marie Vinson Franklin, 81, an advocate for the handicapped, died Monday, January 31, 2011 at her home in Grand Prairie. Frances Franklin was born March 8, 1929 in Dallas, Texas, the oldest of five children born to the late Leroy Vinson and the late Ethel Marie Laffoon Vinson. She would drive a school bus for the disabled children of the Grand Prairie Independent School District for more than 13 years, a job she readily volunteered for every year. Frances established life long friendships with many children who continued to send cards and letters long after they left school. Mrs. Franklin never met a stranger, but those with special needs always held a special place in her heart. Long before Special Olympics, she worked tirelessly raising money for a playground for special need children. Her efforts were honored when the mayor of Grand Prairie presented her with a key to the city. Frances loved driving the school bus to various sports venues in the evening. Her husband of 61 years, the late Doug Franklin would follow her in the family automobile, assisting and making repairs should she have problems. When Frances was younger and healthier, she loved to ride motorcycles. In later years, she became active in raising and selling cockatiels to various buyers, including Petco. She is survived by her children, Don Franklin and his wife Elisabeth, Sue Burdette, Jan Campbell; grandchildren, Ginger Flores, Jodi Kempny, Daniel Campell, Hiedi Franklin; 8 great grandchildren; siblings, Walter Vincent, Sonny Vincent and Wanda Vincent. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and son, Kenny Rushing. Memorial Service: 4 p.m. Tuesday

at Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home, 500 East Main Street, Grand Prairie, Texas.  
She will be buried beside her husband at Shilo Cemetery in a private ceremony.