



Loretha "Retha" Faith Ward

November 19, 1937 - March 18, 2020

Loretha "Retha" Faith Doyle Ward (1937-2020), passed away peacefully on Wednesday morning, March 18th at 2:25 a.m. in Frisco, Texas, surrounded by members of her loving family. She is preceded in death by her parents, baby boy Allen Ward, and husband Jerry Don Ward.

Born November 19, 1937 to Rev. Allen and Lois Doyle in Price, Texas, she was the first child and only daughter. Loretha was a talented pianist and organist and as a young lady would travel with her father to his speaking engagements where she would play and sing and he would preach. As an organist and dedicated church musician she played for many churches at services, weddings and other functions. Her musical abilities brought joy and soothed the souls of many over the years.

Loretha met the love of her life, Jerry Don Ward, at the tender age of four years in Jacksonville, Texas. They played together as children but lost contact as they grew older and the Doyle family moved to another pastorate. As the Lord directed their steps, they met again as teenagers at a youth camp in Lufkin, Texas. They were married on October 13, 1956 and celebrated 54 years of marriage.

She had a love for learning and earned her bachelor's and master of education degrees from The University of Houston. As a dedicated teacher for

more than 25 years, she taught school at Irvington Christian Academy and in the Aldine, Magnolia, and Cy-Fair public school systems. She held a reading specialization and was a published author multiple times as a contributor to an educator's language-arts manual.

Retha had a strong faith and supported her husband devotedly as they traveled the U.S. as young newlyweds evangelizing the gospel of Christ. For over 40 years they pastored churches in Seabrook, Silsbee, Paris, and Houston, Texas. Her life was lived in service to God; her family, her community and countless lives were transformed under her influence.

Her exceptional skills in the kitchen were enjoyed by many, but most of all by her family. She had no rivals when it came to her homemade dressing at holiday time, fried quail on Christmas morning with homemade biscuits and gravy, shrimp gumbo or her many other specialties!

Her family is comforted in knowing that she is now reunited with the love of her life, nine long years after Jerry's passing, and her baby boy Allen. What a sweet reunion it must be.

Loretha is survived by two children: daughter Kimberly Ward and son Jerry Don Ward II and wife Jacquie. She is additionally survived by three grandchildren: Mallorie Ward, Jonathan Ward, Steven Sanchez and wife Brenda as well as two great grand-children and her brother Benny Doyle. Her loving extended family includes brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank our church families for their love and support over the years and specifically during the time of our mom's illness. Grace Church pastors and staff and the Oasis group loved and cared for our mom in a beautiful way. Her special friends of the Ladies Bible Study, at Cypress Bible

Church, and the million little things they did and ways they brought sunshine into mom's life will never be forgotten. Heartland Church embraced her fully upon her recent move to Frisco, Texas and the warmth and love she received added such joy to her last days. The family also wishes to acknowledge and thank Good-Shepherd Hospice and specifically nurse Cathy Adams and aid Lisa Clemons for their loving compassionate care for our sweet mother during her final days.

A private burial will occur at West Shady Grove Cemetery near Jacksonville, Texas where she will be laid beside her husband. A Memorial Service will occur at a later date in Houston.

The family request in lieu of flowers, friends consider a donation to Grace Bridge, c/o The Heartland Church, 4020 Nazarene, Carrollton, TX, 75010 or <https://theheartlandchurch.com/give/>.

Tribute Wall

MD

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



M Dean - March 28, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Loretha "Retha" Faith Ward.



March 24, 2020 at 09:29 PM

MN

“ Loretha was a loving pastors wife when I first met her as I was a young teen in Paris, Texas. She's always been loving and kind to everyone. She always remembered my name even when it had been years. And would always ask about my mom. Precious lady and now she is healthy and joyously praising God forever in Heaven. My prayers are with her family and especially Kimberly and Jerry Don. May God cover you with his love.

Marsha Newberry - March 24, 2020 at 05:19 PM

MS

“ We are sad in hearing of the passing of this precious child of God. Memories of her with her mom and dad bring back memories that I'll always treasure. She came to Gospel Tabernacle a while back and she met Pastor Labrie and we had a great visit and reminisced about her dad pastoring there and wonderful times past. I cherish this visit we had and want the family to know the Doyle's are still loved in Beaumont and we will never forget there sacrifices and love for us. Mount up with angels wings dear child of God and and accept your abundant reward. Love, Mark Smith and all of Gospel Tabernacle

Mark Smith - March 24, 2020 at 12:22 PM

KC

“ I was always so enamored as a young girl at how beautiful, sweet and elegant Sis Ward was when they were my pastor in Silsbee, Texas. She has always been such a beautiful memory for me. My prayers and sincere condolences to her family and dear friends.

Kay Robertson Crain - March 24, 2020 at 02:14 AM

KW

“ No matter how hard I could have tried I couldn't have "custom ordered" a greater sister-in-law. She was a real servant of God and the perfect companion for my late brother, Jerry, and such a loving and caring mother to Kim and Don. I could write a book.....

Kenneth Ward - March 23, 2020 at 08:38 PM

NM

My cherished sister-in-law Loretha still lives in my heart and in so many of my memories. She was my friend even before she became my sister by law in marriage to my elder brother Jerry. What a beautiful choice Jerry made in choosing and then by being accepted as a lifelong partner by Loretha. God truly blessed their union as they ministered together in His Kingdom for 54 years. Her life had been dedicated to laboring in the Master's harvest years before she joined with Jerry in his ministry. I look forward to meeting again with her and all of our loved ones and worshiping our Savior around the throne in Heaven for eternity.

Nola Sue Ward Mays - December 14, 2020 at 08:39 PM

MA

“ *Every moment spent In her presence was warming. Always received with her beautiful smile. A warm hug. Mother Ward you will be missed here on Earth and welcomed with open arms in heaven. Thank you for the blessing that you are.*

Melanie Anca - March 23, 2020 at 08:16 PM

KB

“ *I've only known Loreatha for about 12 years or so. I loved her dearly and your dad as well. They were both God's servants. Our prayers are with the family. This is an odd time since there are no gatherings of many people. Know that we are eith you in His Spirit. May God bless you all. Karen Britten*

Karen Britten - March 23, 2020 at 07:52 PM

MH

She was a special lady, sure am going To miss her.

marilyn Howton - March 23, 2020 at 09:01 PM

RO

“ If I could talk to your mother, this is what I would say: "Mother Ward, we bid you farewell until one day when we will see you again. We learned to call you Mother Ward through Jacquie, and we so honored that you always allowed us to call you that. It was such an honor to meet you. Please say hi to Jesus for me :)". Don such a wonderful experience to meet your mom, thank you for sharing her with us.

Raul and Ivonne Ontiveros - March 23, 2020 at 05:30 PM