



## Virginia Merle Bethell

November 8, 1925 - October 17, 2010

Virginia Merle Bethell was born in India, Texas on November 8, 1925, to parents Harvey and Abbie (Watson) Lonon. She had 2 brothers Winiford and Frank and 4 sisters, Dorothy, Willie Louise, Mary and Pat. She married Joe Bethell on May 25, 1946, after only knowing him for 3 weeks, it must have been love at first sight. They were together until his death on May 25, 1996, exactly 50 years. Merle was not only Joe's loving wife, but a wonderful and unselfish care giver, for he was ill the last 25 years of their marriage. She had her first child, Michael Joe, in August of 1950 and Janice Annette was born in February 1956. While raising two kids, she had many jobs... Teacher, Master Chef, Nurse, Seamstress, Homework Dictator, PTA Member, Bookkeeper, Butler, Maid, Psychologist, Chauffeur, a Fan of Lancaster football, track, cheerleading and drill team...just to name a few.

At the Lonon/Watson Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings, family fought over her famous Fried Chicken, Banana Nut Cake and Italian Cream Cake. Merle enjoyed going to the horse races with her sister Mary and playing Bingo and card games with her sister Pat and friends.

In April 2004, she survived surgery of a cancerous tumor removed from her neck. Later emphysema and asthma (COPD) caused her to need oxygen 24 hours a day. As her COPD worsened she became homebound, only leaving her house for doctor appointments or family holiday parties. Merle moved to

Bellaire, Texas to live with her daughter and family in mid August 2007. On August 24, 2007, she had a stroke, but recovered with minimal side effects.

The last three years of her life, Merle became a TV junky. She loved to watch Wheel of Fortune, Deal or No Deal, The Price is Right (the Game Show Channel), Regis and Kelly, Ellen, American Idol, Dancing with The Stars, The Bachelor, The Bachelorette, and any romance movie. Merle's all time favorite movie, which she watched at least 30 plus times, was "Dirty Dancing" with Patrick Swayze.

On Sunday October 17, 2010, Merle was tired of fighting a month long battle with pneumonia so she shut her eyes and quietly slipped away to be with her Lord and Savior. She is survived by daughter Annette (Thomas,Jr.) Noble; son Mike (Kelly) Bethell; grandchildren Victoria Noble, Charece (Chris) Robbins, Bryan Bethell, Taylor Bethell, Heather Copeland; great grandchildren Colby Jones, Cade & Carleigh Robbins, Katelyn & Rebecca Copeland; sisters Patricia Hollaway & Dorothy Burnett.

Merle was a loving and caring wife, mother, granny, aunt, daughter, and friend. She will be missed by all that knew her.

# Tribute Wall



“ *God Bless##imported-begin##John Francis##imported-end##*

October 30, 2010 at 09:46 PM



“ *Annette and Mike,*

*I am sorry for your loss. It's never easy and I know she will be missed. However, we should find peace and happiness knowing now that your Mom and Dad are forever together again. You both, along with your families, are in our thoughts and prayers at this time of sorrow.*

*Todd, Mari, Brock and Lucas##imported-begin##Todd Luft and Family##imported-end##*

October 29, 2010 at 06:30 PM



“ *HEAVEN JUST RECIVED ANOTHER ANGEL AS SHE FLEW RIGHT OUT OF ALL HER PAIN AND TIRED BODY. I WILL MISS HER GREATLY. AFTER MEETING HER SHE WAS LIKE THE GRANDMOTHER I NEVER HAD, WE SHARED A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT OUR FAMILIES AND WATCHED A LOT OF GAME SHOWS TOGETHER.  
GOD BLESS THE FAMILY AT THIS TIME.  
PS. TELL LACIE I LOVE AND MISS HER.##imported-begin##KATHY SAUNDERS##imported-end##*

October 29, 2010 at 04:38 PM



“ WE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU - THE CHIPPINDALE DANCERS##imported-begin##MIKE mARTIN##imported-end##

October 28, 2010 at 06:33 PM



“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that our family will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Tony & Jill Lemmond & Family##imported-end##

October 28, 2010 at 11:42 AM



“ Mike so sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Paula wisdom##imported-end##

October 27, 2010 at 02:38 PM



“ What a wonderful life.##imported-begin##Susie Dyer##imported-end##

October 27, 2010 at 12:27 PM



“ sorry for your loss may the Lord comfort you and your family. love you ij9p##imported-begin##clydette perkins##imported-end##

October 27, 2010 at 12:04 AM



“ May the Lord comfort you.##imported-begin##Helen Cochran##imported-end##

October 26, 2010 at 11:58 PM



“ *##imported-begin##Jerry holloway##imported-end##*

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October 26, 2010 at 11:47 PM



“ *To the Bethell Family,*

*My heart felt thoughts and prayers are with you all.I know how it feels to lose a great person in your life. There is no greater person than your Mother.We spent a full week with family and friends remembering all the fun times, laughing and crying along the way..Take care.*

*Laura Haberman##imported-begin##Laura Haberman##imported-end##*

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October 26, 2010 at 11:34 PM



“ *Annette and Family*

*Sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I remember her very well spending time at you house when we were younger.*

*Hope that as each day passes that you find comfort in her memories. She will be greatly missed by you and your family.*

*Yours Truly,*

*Joni Durrett Burns##imported-begin##Joni Durrett Burns##imported-end##*

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October 26, 2010 at 09:40 AM



“ Sorry to hear about your mom. Sounds like you have lots of good memories.##imported-begin##Mary Kinnard##imported-end##

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October 25, 2010 at 05:11 PM



“ Annette and Tom and Victoria,

*Please know our dearest thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Binaus##imported-begin##Brian & Sara Binau##imported-end##*

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October 22, 2010 at 12:26 AM



“ Having married one of Merle’s cousins in 1990, I was lovingly accepted into the family by Merle (and her sisters). She was devoted to her family and loved them unconditionally. I will remember her kindness, love and courage. May she rest in peace in the arms of the Lord.##imported-begin##Debbie Lonon##imported-end##

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October 21, 2010 at 09:58 PM