



Marion Lowe Hodges

October 23, 1921 - December 10, 2014

Marion Lowe Hodges' earthly life, one of tireless loving and doing for others, in a style all her own, ended peacefully on Dec. 10. She was 93. Many are united in gratitude for the great blessing of her influence. She was a human exclamation point, one who affirmed and encouraged, administering "TLC" to family, friends and strangers. Born in Dawson, Ga., she grew up as "Sis," the only daughter (with brothers Sam, Bill and Lewis) of the Rev. Sam F. Lowe and Maude Hammock Lowe. The family lived in Enterprise, Ala., and Meridian, Miss., then moved to Atlanta, where her father led Inman Park Baptist Church and founded the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission. She attended public schools, including Girls High, then went to Atlanta Junior College, and finally to Mercer University, where she graduated after two memorable years. During World War II, she lived at home, working in a federal agency, but also volunteering with the USO, writing untold numbers of letters to servicemen, and getting featured in the newspaper for donating more blood to the war effort than any of the men in her workplace. After the war and while working at Tucker Wayne Advertising Agency, she met Jake Hodges, who wooed her with every possible strategy, including carrying a pocketknife - one of her requirements in a beau. Their long, devoted, adventurous marriage began in 1948, and would include raising three sons, living at Blue Creek Farm, briefly running a barbecue restaurant and moving to Clayton County in 1955. There, she became "Mrs. H," serving as office manager of Jake's law practice, mastering the intricacies of home loan finance

and helping him with literally thousands of closings. Jake was the first to acknowledge she was the preferred, if unlicensed, lawyer for many clients. Along the way, she served as a PTA president and president of the Clayton County Women's Chamber of Commerce. She was an active UDC and DAR member. Her deep Christian faith governed her, and she was everything from pulpit committee member to trustee to Sunday School superintendent at First Baptist Jonesboro and later First Baptist Church Forest Park. (She always wanted to be a deacon, but couldn't crack the all-male ranks. Maybe in heaven.) She became "Mom" with the birth of grandchildren, and relished that role, while also lovingly caring for Jake in his declining years. After his death in 1991, she continued running the family car wash, and acquired a real estate license and sold a motel through son Bill's firm. She stepped up her work as family archivist, and was proud to be an early female Kiwanis Club member in Forest Park. Quietly, but importantly, she was a freelance agent for good, taking early morning and late night counseling calls from hurting friends and family members, sometimes straightening out their finances, making calls and visits and sending satin pillow cases and toasted pecans to the bereaved or seriously ill. She kept the U.S. Postal Service going through her epic Christmas card list. When she learned of another's service to someone in need, she cheered, invariably saying, "You'll have stars in your crown." At 83, she surprised herself and everyone else by marrying Clifford Milam, a retired lawyer she met at church. They found love and companionship, beginning each day with coffee and plugging away at their yearly project of reading the entire Bible aloud. The Milam family embraced Mom completely, and she them. In the last couple of years, as her physical and memory challenges mounted, Mom complained little, and took to kissing the hands of caregivers and visitors. She was a role model to the end, and her influence goes on. Special thanks to Sheila Hodges for assembling a wonderful caregiver team, including Geraldine Yancey, Hilda Green, Delois Journey, Eva Norton, Marie Sesay. Jan Servais, a cousin who considered her Sis a second mother, offered crucial support. Maurice Scandrett, longtime Hodges family employee

and friend, has been ever faithful. Survivors include husband Clifford Milam; sons Bill, Carl and Sam Hodges; daughters-in-law Sheila Hodges, Lynn Hodges and Kit Lively; grandchildren Amanda Hodges, Julie Hodges Melton and Clint Hodges; great-grandchildren Jackson Melton, Walker Melton and Addison Hodges. The funeral will be at Ford-Stewart Funeral Home in Jonesboro on Saturday at 2 p.m., with visitation Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and again an hour before the service. In lieu of flowers, contribute to First Baptist Forest Park, 634 Main St., Forest Park, GA 30297, phone: 404366-6333 or The office of University Advancement, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207, phone: 1-800-837-2911 or do something for someone in need, adding stars in your crown, in imitation and honor of Marion Lowe Hodges. Ford-Stewart Funeral Home, Inc., Jonesboro/Stockbridge 707-210-2700. www.fordstewartfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

ST

“ I am late in sending this, but I do extend my condolences for Cousin Marion's death. I have fond memories of Cousin Marion. I shall always remember how kind she was when my mother was in Atlanta taking her nursing certification test.

Susan Taylor - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Our condolences to Marion's Family. I was honored to be a friend and her Hairstylist for many years,until I retired.We shared many wonderful conversations.She was truly a giving person. She gave me the silk pillow and many Christmas WhiteHouse Ornaments, That is on my mantel today. You will be missed.Juanita Everett & Greg White.9

Juanita Everett - December 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FB

*“ Marion Hodges was a Christian inspiration to all who knew her. She was a Christian mentor to Jackie and to others! Miss Marion was a true leader and servant to our Lord through her work at First Baptist. She often wrote notes of encouragement to let others know that she appreciated them. We are so thankful to have had Marion Hodges in our lives. We loved her.
Frank and Jackie Brandon*

Frank & Jackie Brandon - December 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ A wonderful legacy in so many ways. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. J

Jan. Carter - December 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HO

“ *May the many wonderful memories of Marion bring you comfort and strength.*

Harry and Karol Osborne - December 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *Although I did not have the privilege to know you, we are sisters in the Lord Jesus & in the DAR. Will not be able to attend the heart warming service, but your family is in my prayers for comfort at this time.*

Elise Jones - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *I treasure the years that I knew Mrs. H. She blessed me in so many ways that I can't even begin to mention them. She took me under her wing and cared for me as if I were one of her own. So many precious memories that I have regarding my "adopted grandmother". I rejoice knowing her future and her new home. When I think of Mrs. H, one scripture stands clear in my mind - Matthew 25:23. "Well done, good and faithful servant." Mrs. H, I will miss you but want to thank you for sharing your life with me.*
All my love,
Chris

Chris & Becky Wagner - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Marion was one of the most precious ladies I have met. She was such an encourager. I have sung in the choir at First Baptist Church, Forest Park for many years. I think Marion sent us a beautifully written Thank You note after ever special presentation. Sometimes just after a Sunday special that really spoke to her. A Proverbs 31 woman, if I have ever seen you. What an example she lived before everyone. We loved you Marion.

Katherine and Ron Dodson - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ We are so sorry to hear about Ms. Hodges. She was a very special lady and a friend to all who met her. We feel blessed in knowing her. Our prayers are with you. John and Linda Farmer

John and Linda Farmer - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM