
Gertrude B. Terrell

ODESSA Gertrude Bull Terrell, 92, a resident of Odessa for more than 50 years, died peacefully December 7, 2012, in Austin, TX. She was born Gertrude Cornish Bull, the third child of the Reverend Henry D. Bull and Gertrude C. Bull, in Charleston, SC. She was raised in Georgetown and on Pawleys Island, SC, with six siblings, the Reverend John Bull, Caroline Grannis, Mary Quinn, Sarah Clarkson, Henry Bull Jr. and Elizabeth Asnip. She graduated from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC, in 1942, then attended Columbia University in New York City, where she received a Master's degree.

In December 1945, Gertrude married Captain LaVern B. Terrell, USAF, of Santa Fe, NM. LaVern became a petroleum engineer, and the couple moved out West, living in a series of small towns, Las Cruces and Hobbs, NM, and Borger, TX, before settling in Odessa in 1953. They were married 63 years, until LaVern's death in

2009.

Gertrude was a devoted member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Odessa, where she served, at various times, as a member of the Altar Guild, Sunday school teacher, Lay Reader and an energetic volunteer for anything the church needed a hand with. She was a patient and loving wife, sister, mother and aunt. Her generosity was legendary, and her optimism was contagious. She sang like an angel, and sang for no particular reason throughout the day, just for the fun of it. She sang in the St. John's choir most of her adult life, and looked forward to it every Sunday.

From the mid-1960s until her retirement in 1985, she taught French and Latin in public schools, first at Ector and then at Permian High School. She had the gift of making dry academic subjects fun and interesting, and will be remembered fondly by legions of her former students.

She is survived by one brother, Henry (Harry) Bull of Columbia, SC, and his wife Brantley; and two sisters, Sarah Clarkson of Charleston, SC, and her husband Crawford, and Elizabeth (Betty) Asnip of Georgetown, SC, and her husband George; four children, George Terrell and his wife Goldie of Blacksburg, VA; Sarah Peet and husband Ed of Austin, TX; Caroline Blagg and husband, the Reverend James Blagg, of Durant, OK; and Henry Terrell and wife Sarah of Houston, TX; and six grandchildren, Heather Thornton and husband Ryan of Lawrence, KS; Catherine Blagg of Durant, OK; Abigail, Edwin and Sean Terrell of Houston, TX; and Audrey Terrell of Blacksburg, VA. She also left behind many nieces and nephews, for whom "Aunt Dootsie" was a favorite.

A memorial Service will be held Dec. 15, 2012, 4:00 pm, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 209 W. 27th St., in Austin, TX, with reception following in the Parish Hall. At a later date, her ashes will be interred in Odessa at the St. John's Episcopal Church columbarium wall.

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