



Patsy "Pat" Richards

September 7, 1925 - July 6, 2012

Mrs. Patsy (Pat) Jewel Richards entered heaven's gates Friday morning, July 6, 2012 at the age of 86. She was born in Palestine, Texas on September 7, 1925 to the late Howard Claybourn and Judy Boyd-Claybourn, and later moved to Palacios. She graduated from Palacios High School in 1943, and shortly after, met her husband of 67 years, Joe E. Richards, also a Palacios High School graduate. Joe and Pat met when he returned from Los Angeles, California, to visit his family before entering Flight Instructor School at Randolph Field in San Antonio at the onset of World War II. They were married on September 11, 1944, at the First Baptist Church of El Campo and moved to Alabama during World War II.

When the war ended, they moved to Wharton and opened a laundry and dry cleaning business they operated together for five years, until they purchased Pat's father's business in El Campo, Sunshine Laundry and Dry Cleaners. Pat and Joe operated the business for 65 years. In addition to helping her husband own and operate a business, Pat was a journalist, editor, and also had a radio program three days a week.

As a journalist, Pat wrote women's news in El Campo for the El Campo News, The Citizen, and the El Campo Leader-News. Her columns "News" and "About Town" focused on women's interests and social happenings. Her radio program aired on Radio Station KULP three days a week.

Pat was an active member in philanthropic and social clubs including: an afternoon bridge club, The Garden Club, a dedicated member of First Baptist

Church, a couple's club, the PTA, Beta Sigma Phi, and organized the Sesame Club with Mrs. Farley Sanford.

An energetic and passionate woman, Pat loved and relished her time with her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, and employees. Her sister, Betty Welch, preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband Joe Edward Richards of El Campo; children, Sherilyn Perilloux and husband Tom of El Campo, Joe H. Richards and wife, Veronica of El Campo; grandchildren, Tom Perilloux and wife Lisa of El Campo, Tia Thompson and her husband, Jason of Austin, Patricia "Trish" Portella-Wright and husband Bob Wright of Solana Beach, CA, Chad Richards and wife Kim of Katy; and great-grandchildren, Celeste Portella, Colin and Charlie Thompson, and Lucas Richards.

Visitation for Patsy will begin Noon on Monday at Triska Funeral Home with her family receiving friends from 5-7 p.m. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday July 10, 2012 at First Baptist Church with Reverend Rick Dubroc officiating.

Special thanks to all the caregivers who loved and cared for Pat. She loved each and every one of you.

Memorial donations may be made to the Elk's Lodge or to First Baptist Church of El Campo.

Triska Funeral Home El Campo, Texas 979-543-3681

Tribute Wall

DF

“ I grew up with Joe, Mrs. Richards son. I have many wonderful memories of visiting them at Turtle Bay. She always made me feel welcomed and her smile would melt you. I will never forget her chuckle, always with a big smile much like her picture.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards to me were the perfect couple and they loved each other so much it was very noticeable!

The one thing I remember about Sunshine Laundry was the message printed on all of their Van's. "Being Well Groomed is an Asset"! Both of them always looked perfect!

Little Joe, my best friend always was the best dressed wherever you saw him!

What wonderful memories I have due to such a wonderful family.

*Sincerely with Love,
David Thigpen*

David Thigpen - Palacios, TX - Friend of Family - July 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NE

“ We are very honored to have cared for such a great lady. She was blessed to have such a loving family and devoted sitters and hairdresser. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Norma RN and Linda LVN - El Campo, TX - nurses @ ECMH - July 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ My first job was at Sunshine Laundry & Dry Cleaners working for Pat and Joe Richards, at the age of twelve, doing various tasks from sweeping and cleaning the building to eventually waiting on customers and making deliveries throughout my years there as an employee. Pat was always an inspiration to me and both she and Joe helped me to become a success in my future career and life. I will never forget those days.

My condolences and sincere sympathy to Joe and all of the family.

James C. Voldan

Sugar Land, Texas

James C. Voldan - Sugar Land, TX - Friend And Former Employee - July 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ I worked for the Richards when I moved back to El Campo from Houston. Mrs. Richards was always very nice to me and treated me like family and not an employee. I can remember her coming to Sunshine Ldry and Cleaners looking like she had just stepped out of a fashion magazine. She always looked so beautiful and that is how I will remember her. I know you are in a better place and looking down on your family that you loved so very much.

Kaye Hubenak - El Campo, TX - employee from way back when - July 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM