

Judy LaDell Gentry

July 5, 1943 – September 27, 2026



In loving memory of our mom, Judy LaDell Gentry, who passed away at the age of 83 on September 27, 2026. She was the devoted mother of her daughter, Michelle Hayes, son-in-law Brad Hayes, son Shaw Gentry, daughter-in-law Kristina Gentry, and her grandchildren Grayson Gentry and Ashlynn Gentry. Judy will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Judy was brought into this world on July 5, 1943, to Ernest William Jackson and Minnie Beth Jackson. She grew up in a small Texas panhandle town, spending her summers working the cotton farm with her siblings Barbara Philipp, Herman Jackson, Betty Evans, and Billy Don Jackson. She was one of 17 in her high school graduating class at Happy High School in Happy, Texas.

Upon graduating from West Texas University and obtaining her teaching credential, she dedicated her life to teaching math. She taught in Texas, Alaska, Long Beach, and locally in Chino, California. Judy was not only known as the “most strict math teacher” at Magnolia Junior High, but she shocked her students each year on the first day of class by rapidly stating the quadratic equation: $x \text{ equals negative } b, \text{ plus or minus the square root of } b \text{ squared minus } 4 \text{ times } a \text{ times } c, \text{ all divided by } 2 \text{ times } a$, and letting students know they, too, would be able to do this by the end of the year. She was constantly visited by returning students who thanked her for instilling in them a hard work ethic and making math accessible to them. Judy left a lasting legacy through the generations of lives she impacted.

After retiring, Judy spent her time in church every Sunday, traveling, playing Bunco with a close group of friends, watching the Los Angeles Lakers and Dallas Cowboys, and loving her grandchildren, known to them as Mimi.

Our mom was a kind, caring and giving person, who always put the needs of her family before her own. She was a strong woman who faced every challenge in her life with courage and dignity. She was a source of inspiration to us all and will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched.

Mom, Mimi, you will always be in our hearts and there won't be a day that goes by that we don't think of you. We love you so much and thank God for you and the years we shared.

A memorial service to celebrate Judy's life will be held on October 21, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Pierce Brothers Crestlawn Memorial Park and Mortuary 1500 Arlington Ave., in Riverside. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.