

## MARTHA LOU HUGHES

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**1921-2015**

*DECATUR*: Martha Lou Hughes, 93, of Decatur died on Thursday, July 23, 2015.

She was born on November 18, 1921, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to Alma Caldwell and Emmett Thornton. She was the second child of four, having an older brother, Dozier and younger sisters: Mary and Carolyn, all of whom preceded her in death.

Martha attended North Texas State Teachers College (now University of North Texas) and obtained her degree in library science in 1943. She met William Augustus "W.A." Hughes Jr. and, following his naval service in the South Pacific during World War II, they married in 1945.

She continued as a professional librarian for 48 years as a volunteer, driving the start of the First United Methodist Church Library in 1959 and Decatur Public Library in 1967. In addition to full-time service as the volunteer librarian from 1968 to 1976, Martha continued weekly volunteer work until her death.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, William A. Hughes, on January 6, 1989; a son, Carter C. Hughes, on September 11, 1996; a brother, Dozier Thornton; and two sisters, Mary Pearce and Carolyn Murray.

Survivors include her son, Dan T. Hughes of Fort Worth; daughter in law, Becky Hughes of Denton, Texas and two grandchildren, Gus Hughes of Denton, Texas and Nelan Hughes of Taylors, South Carolina.

Memorial services were held 2:30 p.m. Sunday at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Brian Bosworth officiating.

Honorary pallbearers included Tom Steffen, Brock Smith, J.E. Carson, David Dodson, Gary Cocanougher, Chuck Heaberlin, Jim Richards and Eric Vincent.

*Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home  
405 E. Main • Decatur, Tx.*