



Leona Malmstrom Franklin

December 29, 1924 - April 2, 2021

Leona Malmstrom Franklin, 96, of Houston passed away peacefully on Friday, April 2, 2021. Mrs. Franklin was born December 29, 1924 in Melvin, Texas to Oscar Daniel Malmstrom and Hulda Johnson Malmstrom. She is preceded in death by her parents, her two older sisters, Lillian Johnson and Eloise Johnson, and her husband, Thomas J. Franklin. Leona is survived by her son, Dr. Daniel J. Franklin and wife, Kimberly, and her daughter, Susan Crosley and husband, John. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Matthew Franklin and wife, Mary Katherine; Nicholas Franklin and wife, Laura Franklin; Allison Franklin, Jay Crosley and Thomas Crosley and great grandchildren, Warner Franklin and Kennedy Franklin.

Leona was born the grandchild of Swedish immigrants on a farm near the small town of Melvin, Texas. Her father died unexpectedly when she was 7 and the family eventually moved to Austin. She started college at Southwest Texas State University and then transferred to The University of Texas at Austin. She landed a job as legal secretary in the firm of Patterson and Patterson and the firm encouraged her to attend The University of Texas Law School. She was admitted to the bar in 1950 and was successfully practicing law when she met and married the love of her life, Thomas Jennings Franklin. Pursuing a business opportunity, the couple relocated to Victoria, Texas. While there, she was appointed Victoria's first female municipal court judge. Subsequently, the family settled in Houston where she continued to practice law and ultimately retired from the Office of the Harris County Attorney.

The Franklin family will be present to receive friends Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079. Funeral services for Mrs. Franklin will be held Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 12535 Perthshire Rd., Houston, TX 77024. Leona will be laid to rest next to her husband in Austin Memorial Park in a private family ceremony.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Service

APR **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
12535 Perthshire Road
Houston, TX 77024

Tribute Wall



“ *Leona Malmstrom Franklin*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Leona Malmstrom Franklin*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Leona Malmstrom Franklin*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Leona Malmstrom Franklin*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Judge Leona (as I addressed her) was a wonderful member of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church while I served there from 1987 to 2001. She introduced me to her son, Dr. Dan who was my much needed ENT during that time. Peace, Melvin*

Melvin Gray - July 04, 2021 at 11:59 AM

MB

“ *Leona was just about the first person I met when I went to work at the Harris County Attorneys in 1983. She was a tremendous mentor and guide, not just to the law and practice of law but parenting and life in general. She spoke often about her children and grandchildren with affection and gratitude.*

Melinda Heath Brents

Melinda Brents - April 20, 2021 at 08:29 PM

PW

“ *Leona was a truly beautiful lady. She was intelligent, caring and kind. She was the Mother of our eldest son's best high school friend. She was so proud of both of her children and justifiably so. Leona was also a member of our church, Holy Spirit Episcopal, and we saw her almost every Sunday until we moved out of Houston. Though we haven't seen her in almost a decade it is difficult for us to accept that she has left us. Our consolation is knowing with great certainty that we will meet again.*

Patricia Williams - April 20, 2021 at 12:37 AM

JW

“ *John and Pat Williams, parents of John Edward Will purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Leona Malmstrom Franklin.*



John and Pat Williams, parents of John Edward Will - April 20, 2021 at 12:30 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Leona Malmstrom Franklin.*



April 18, 2021 at 08:27 PM



“ *I knew Leona ALL my life. Leona was my father Jay Patterson's right hand in the law office of Patterson and Patterson. She lived five houses from my parent's home. She was always a part of our family. My Mom and Dad loved her like a daughter. I always admired Leona. She was a true lady, excellent attorney and judge. She reared two wonderful children who she was very proud of. May peace and comfort come to her family. She had a life well lived!*

Kathy Patterson Carriker - April 14, 2021 at 03:40 PM



“ *It was with great sorrow that I heard of Leona's passing. I worked in my father's, Woodrow Patterson, law office one summer when Leona was Jay Patterson's secretary and I got to know her. She was a beautiful and gracious lady. She will be missed by many.*

Susan Patterson Johnson

Susan Patterson Johnson - April 14, 2021 at 10:47 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Leona Malmstrom Franklin.* ”



April 13, 2021 at 10:36 PM