

Shirley Ann Warnica passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 after a long and graceful battle with carcinoid cancer. She was born June 7, 1935 to the late Homer and Annie Preston in Cleburne, TX. She graduated from Cleburne High School in 1953 and joined the United States Air Force where she met her husband Billy M. Warnica. She retired from the Air Force in 1956 and she lived in many cities as she followed her husband's career to Little Rock, AK, Ipswich, England, San Antonio, TX, Houston, TX and Oklahoma City, OK before they retired to Lake Fork, TX in 1988. Shirley was a compassionate, loving and devoted wife, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother and friend.

She survived melanoma when she was 18 and went on to survive breast cancer when she was 51 years old with a spirit and determination that was inspiring to her friends and family. During the last seven years she faced multiple surgeries and treatments to fight the rare and challenging carcinoid cancer while she retained her optimism and strong faith in the Lord. She was a charter and active member of the Carcinoid Cancer Texas support group (www.carcinoid-tx.org), a strong encourager to the newly diagnosed and a comfort and strength to all her fellow members for her upbeat and cheerful spirit. She loved animals, reading and spending time with her family. She had an open heart for everyone she met and came to know. Her unconditional love and support of family and friends is a legacy she leaves to all who knew her. She was simply an inspiration. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Bill, her son, Bryan Warnica & wife Kim of Cleveland, OH and her daughter, Vera Reid and husband Lang, her six grandchildren, Lindsay, Jake & Bryan Warnica, Jordan and Parker Anderson and Claire Reid, her sisters Helen Powell, Connie Rice and Patsy Pierce of Cleburne, TX , her brother, James Preston, and many nieces and nephews.

Her family and friends will take comfort in these words: God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you and whispered, "Come with me." With tearful eyes we watched you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we would not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, your hardworking hands put to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. We will always love you Shirley, Mom and Ma. A visitation with friends and family will be held at Sparkman Hillcrest Funeral Home in Dallas, TX, June 27 from 6-8:00 pm. Memorial services will be at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery at 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX on Tuesday at 10:00 am. Memorials may be made in memory of Shirley Warnica to Caring for Carcinoid Foundation, One Kendall Square 180, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. (617) 494-1356.