



## Leanna Sylvia Koemel

January 18, 1934 - November 1, 2013

Celebration of Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel January 18, 1934

Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel was born on January 18, 1934 at home to Anna Alma Matheaus Haverlah and Lee Henry Haverlah in Three Oaks, Texas. Leanna was given spiritual life through Baptism as a baby at the Poth Lutheran Church and continued with her confirmation at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Jourdanton. Being a woman of God, Leanna was also a teacher, nurse, and musician.

Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel is followed in death by her husband of fifty-two years, John Ernest Koemel. John had passed away on August 14, 2013. She is survived by her four children and their spouses as well as twelve grandchildren, and one great grandchild. They are listed in order of birth.

Daughter : Johnna-Lee Julie Koemel Taylor and Aubry Lane (Lane) Taylor (spouse)

Grandchildren: Aubry John (AJ) Taylor(grandson) and Lisa Taylor (spouse), Julie Nicole Taylor, (granddaughter) and Rachel Leanna Taylor (granddaughter)

Great Grandchild: Aubry Luke Taylor (great grandson)

Son: John Ernest Koemel, Jr. (Butch) and Tina Mooney Koemel (spouse)

Grandchildren: Thomas Michael Koemel, (grandson), Nicholas Andrew Koemel, (grandson), and Grace Ellen Koemel (granddaughter)

Daughter: Kristen Kay Koemel Dunn and Kevin Michael Dunn (spouse)

Grandchildren: Justin Ryan Dunn (grandson), Koren Marie Dunn

(granddaughter), and Alexis Mikaylin Dunn (granddaughter)

Son: Timothy Mark Koemel (Tim) and Lorin Cinnamon Koemel (spouse)

Grandchildren: Canyon Taylor Koemel (deceased grandson infant 1-10-1997), Ridge Kohl Koemel (grandson), Trinity Robbins Koemel (granddaughter), and Crest Matheaus Koemel (grandson)

Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel was preceded in death by her brother William Charles Haverlah. She is survived by her nephew, Steve, and sister-in-law, Rose Maria Haverlah.

Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel is survived by her brother, Gene Vernon Haverlah and Toni (spouse). She is survived by five children of Gene Haverlah and Lucille Novak. They are listed in order of birth: Vernon (nephew), Douglas (nephew), Kathy (niece), David (nephew), and James (nephew) . She is also survived by their spouses and children.

Leanna was preceded in death by her sister-in-law Walieta Koemel Anderson (1992) and her brother-in-law: Roy Anderson. She is survived by their six children. The children are listed in order of birth: Marie (niece), Mary (niece), Vivian (niece), Sharon (niece), Roy Jr. (Buddy), (nephew), and Lilly (niece). She is also survived by their spouses and children.

Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel started her school years in Pleasanton, Texas and graduated from the same school district as valedictorian. While in high school, Leanna played the baritone for the band. Her school years were spent living through World War II. Many of her childhood experiences were a part of that time period. Leanna was a living piece of history when she talked about the war rations, victory gardens, and the prejudice attitude of people. Leanna's family had been in the dairy business, and she recalled many times making fresh butter from the cream that was collected. Later on her father, Lee, became a Mobil Oil distributor and owner of a gas station. Leanna would often talk of her parent's, Lee and Anna, generosity in helping businesses with payment plans and fueling needs . Her parents always owned cattle, and Leanna was knowledgeable about raising calves, attending to cows, and hauling hay.

Leanna attended church at the Jourdanton Lutheran Church. She was a dedicated member. Even after Leanna went to college, she still continued to serve as a Sunday School teacher and active member for the church. She was involved with the choir and ladies ministry.

Leanna had always been interested in biology and helping people. Her classmates and teachers recognized her gift of caring for others. She would help tutor, counsel, or assist with a project. After graduation from high school, Leanna attended Texas Lutheran College in Sequin, Texas. She graduated with a Bachelors of Science and continued her education in the nursing field at the University of Texas in Galveston. She became a registered nurse from UT at Galveston. Leanna was thrilled when her granddaughter, Julie Taylor, became a medical student at the University of Texas in Galveston. Julie was walking some of the same halls as she did in her younger days as a student. Leanna had many fond memories of her education at UT in Galveston. She would laugh recalling the time some medical students had a lab experiment which involved taking pills that caused urine to turn blue. Later that day after being in a swimming pool, the students changed the water to a dark blue. Leanna also enjoyed the clam hunting on the beach in Galveston. The students would find the clams, build a fire, and smoke the shells until they opened. She said the clam meat was gritty from sand but delicious. Leanna completed her nursing internship in San Antonio. She moved into an old building which had several rooms that the students used while they were in training.

She had a teacher that taught them the importance of always have fresh linens available, using whatever equipment was present, and creating solutions for the problems that would always come up with a patient. The mottos “always be prepared” and “ use your head” were a part of Leanna’s great nursing skills. Leanna developed many friends while in training, and she continued to stay in touch with several during her early career years and even after she had raised a family.

Following her graduation as a registered nurse, Leanna started her career as a nurse for the Dow Chemical Company in Lake Jackson, Texas. She would take care of any industrial accident or injury that occurred at the workplace. Leanna remembers dropping her college ring in the sink while washing her hands. She would often say, "My ring is in the basement of the Dow Chemical ." While Leanna lived in Lake Jackson, she enjoyed shopping trips to the downtown Houston area.

Leanna continued to go to church at Jourdanton with her parents. She had met Walieta Koemel, John's sister. They were Sunday school teachers. This church was where she would meet her future husband, John Ernest Koemel. Both John's parents, Julius John Koemel, and Freda Clara Naumann Koemel and Leanna's parents, Lee Henry Haverlah and Alma Anna Haverlah knew each other from church. Leanna was working as a nurse at Dow Chemical in Lake Jackson, Texas. Her mother, Anna Alma Haverlah, invited the Koemel's over for dinner. However, only John was able to attend the dinner and he met Leanna who was visiting her parents. They chatted over dinner, and John asked her out for the next weekend. John proposed at Leanna's house on a Saturday night and they didn't tell anyone until Leanna put her hand out on Sunday morning at church. They were married six months later on April 8, 1961. John and Leanna both said they had great conversations, enjoyed listening to music and going to the movies. John always gave Leanna a corsage on their dates. He said Leanna was a woman of God and honest. Leanna also said that once she ran over a skunk and it flatten her tire. John changed the tire even with the skunk smell. She thought that helpfulness was a good quality to have in a person.

John and Leanna Koemel moved to George West, Texas to begin their new life together. John farmed and Leanna worked as a nurse at the Beeville hospital emergency room. She would go to work wearing the white hosiery, white shoes, and white cap. Several times she returned home with blood splatters on her uniform and many interesting and dramatic tails of the ER. Later in her career, Leanna worked as a teacher for Bee County College in the

Nursing Aid program. She touched the lives of many of the students. She finished her nursing career with being the RN (registered nurse) for the Live Oak Nursing center.

John and Leanna attended the St. Paul Lutheran Church in George West, Texas. When their children were young, John and Leanna started to attend Peace Lutheran Church in Beeville, Texas. The church moved after several years and was renamed Faith Lutheran Church in 1977. John and Leanna attended Faith until 2008 when they returned to St. Paul Lutheran Church in George West, Texas. Their children, Johnna, John (Butch), Kristen, and Tim graduated from the George West Independent School District schools. John and Leanna were active in the George West community. Leanna was involved with the church community serving for the ladies committee and missionary assistance. She was involved with the care of the church's altar and communion set. Leanna was a part of the Texas Extension Club helping with student contests, judging items, and leadership development. She was a leader for 4-H activities. She was active with her children's school events. Many times she was working the concession stand at the football games, chaperoning school activities, and attending school functions.

John and Leanna Koemel continued to live in George West until John recently moved to Woodridge Nursing Home in April, 2012 and Leanna moved to Woodridge Nursing Home in 2011. Leanna had struggled with health issues and surgeries that didn't improve her condition.

Leanna loved nursing. She took care of her patients and was remembered by the families. Leanna enjoyed healing people and offering her medical knowledge. She would be the person to turn to for administering allergy shots or accompanying a friend to the hospital for comfort. Many times, when a death or health crisis happened to a friend, Leanna would offer advice on treatments that could be used or explain medical terms. Her family would describe her life as one that was lived by faith in God. Leanna worshipped our God and knew his grace that was given freely. She sought the Bible for comfort in troubled times. Quiet but at times outspoken, Leanna would always

support the person in need or offer nonjudgmental support. Leanna was also known for loving her family, especially when she became a grandparent. She enjoyed the visits of her grandchildren and introduced them to Yathzee, Chicken Foot, dominoes, and Choke Canyon State Park. She liked to travel and see places. Her grandchildren enjoyed camping at Thousand Trails and playing put put golf. Her children remember their mom as someone who raised them to know and love God. She was their defender and nurturer. She was a caretaker and counselor.

Leanna Sylvia Haverlah Koemel was born a child of God and died a child of God. May her faith be a witness to all people.

Visitation will be Friday, November 8, 2013 from 10am-8pm at Roberson Funeral Home, Three Rivers.

Services will be held at: Faith Lutheran Church, 1500 E. FM 351, Beeville, TX 78102 with funeral services at 10:30 am on Saturday, November 9th, 2013.

Pastor John Diaz from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in George West, TX will conduct the service. There will be a light reception afterwards prior to leaving for the burial service. Burial site will be at St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Jourdanton, TX 78026 at approximately 2pm.

Directions - Follow State Highway 97 into Jourdanton, Tx State Highway 97 turns into Oat Street follow it to Willow Street. Turn Right on Willow Street follow Willow to Clamp Street. Turn left on Clamp Street or Hwy 59 to I 37 North to Pleasanton, exit 103. Get on 281 N. to Pleasanton, In Pleasanton turn left on West Oaklawn Street/ State Hwy 97.

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ Mom was an inspiration to everyone around her. Both Mom and Dad had a faith in God that endured through time. My events in life were handled with trust in God. Mom was an adventurous person that was always ready to travel and listen to people's stories. She will be missed.

Kristen Koemel Dunn - November 06, 2013 at 07:24 AM

Johnna Taylor

“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



Johnna Taylor - November 05, 2013 at 09:10 PM

Johnna Taylor

“ Johnna Taylor purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Leanna Sylvia Koemel.



Johnna Taylor - November 05, 2013 at 05:35 PM



“ I remember the fun we had as little children during the holidays: baking and decorating Christmas sugar cookies, dyeing lots of Easter Eggs, watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, shooting off fireworks on the 4th of July and lots of barbeques at the "back 40".

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**Johnna Taylor** - November 05, 2013 at 05:29 PM



I remember mom and dad calling it that name. That was were I put a cow patty on the fire while they were BBQ to create Little house on the prairie scenes.

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**Kristen Koemel Dunn** - November 07, 2013 at 06:08 PM

“ *Place Your Healing Touch In My Hands*

*Unknown Author*

*Help me as I care  
for my patients today,  
Be there with me,  
O Lord, I pray  
Make my words kind  
--it means so much--  
And in my hands place  
Your healing touch  
Let your love shine  
through all that I do,  
So those in need  
may hear and feel You.*

*A Nurse's Prayer*

*Unknown Author*

*I dedicate myself to thee,  
O Lord, my God, this work I undertake  
Alone in thy great name, and for thy sake.  
In ministering to suffering I would learn  
The sympathy that in thy heart did burn.  
Take, then, mine eyes, and teach them to perceive  
The ablest way each sick one to relieve.  
Guide thou my hands, that e'en their touch may prove  
The gentleness and aptness born of love.  
Bless thou my feet, and while they softly tread  
May faces smile on many a sufferer's bed.  
Touch thou my lips, guide thou my tongue,  
Give me a work in sermon for each one.  
Clothe me with patience, strength all tasks to bear,  
Crown me with hope and love, which know no fear,  
And faith, that coming face to face with death  
Shall e'en inspire with joy the dying breath.  
All through the arduous day my actions guide,  
All through the lonely night watch by my side,  
So I shall wake refreshed, with strength to pray,*

*Work in me, through me, with me, Lord, this day.*

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**Family** - November 04, 2013 at 04:58 PM

FA

*Nurse*

*Submitted by Paul Nickerson - Paul is not a Nurse, but his Mother ,  
now retired, was for many years. Paul found this poem tucked away  
in a small photo album belonging to his mother.*

*It was a game we all played as a child  
Then some of us made it a dream worthwhile  
More to learn, not as much time to share  
Because in our hearts we really cared  
We have worked the late night hours  
While others slept away  
Handles a doctor's many moods  
Then found time to pray  
Critical moments that remain as memories  
Some sad - then some are good  
Then there are the tragedies  
That will never be understood  
We see a newborn baby smile  
As we watch another slip away  
And that completes the circle  
The price for life's that paid  
Sometimes not appreciated  
When just a hug will do  
We are proud of our profession  
A gift from me to you*

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**Family** - November 04, 2013 at 05:02 PM

FA

*A gift from me to you*

*Hearts of Gold*

*Sherry York*

*There are times in our lives when we sit down and wonder where our lives will lead us.*

*Sometimes we get so caught up in our jobs that we forget what we truly represent.*

*We get frustrated, aggravated, pushed to the limits and so mentally tired that we feel what is the use in being a Nurse.*

*But then someone gives us a weak smile or holds our hand and may say "thank you, you are so special."*

*Then we feel the warmth growing in our hearts.*

*All the bad feelings disappear and replaced by the core values that we present:*

*human dignity, compassion, dedication, integrity, stewardship, leadership and excellence.*

*So when the bad feelings begin to show take the times to say this prayer:*

*Lord, help me to bring comfort where there is pain.*

*Courage where there is despair.*

*Acceptance when the end is near.*

*A touch gentle with tenderness, patience, and love.*

*And, always remember, all Nurses are truly blessed.*

*For you see --- God gave of Hearts of Gold.*

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**Family** - November 04, 2013 at 05:14 PM