



Virginia Maples, 95, passed away at her home Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016. Memorial service: 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in Greenwood Chapel. Her ashes will be interred in Kingsville next to her husband, Lewis. Memorials: In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Friends of the Fort Worth Library, 500 W. 3rd, Fort Worth, 76102; Goodfellow Fund; or Tarrant County Food Bank. Virginia Precious Long Maples was born Nov. 22, 1921, in Cowles, Webster County, Neb. Her parents were Gladys and Stanley Long. Growing up in a small town, Virginia "Virg" had a happy childhood, spending many hours exploring the town and playing with friends. Her father owned the town drugstore, complete with soda fountain, plenty of ice cream and new crayons. Every Fourth of July her father entertained the town with his fireworks display. This display eventually became a focal point for many family reunions. When Virg was 12 years old, the family moved to the big city of Grand Island, Neb. She quickly adjusted to the city, where she and a close group of friends formed a special club and they kept in touch all their lives. After graduating from Grand Island High School, Virg attended the University of Nebraska, where she was initiated into Alpha Chi Omega sorority and from whom she just received her 75-year pin. After two years at the university, she taught fourth grade at North Bend, Neb. She returned to Grand Island and met Lewis Maples, a soldier stationed at Grand Island Air Base. They were married in February 1946 and moved to Austin, where Louis earned his law degree at the University of Texas, Austin. In 1948, they moved to Kingsville, where Louis practiced law and Virg completed her degree in education at Texas A&I. She then began a 30-year career teaching seventh-grade English in Kingsville. Her students always remembered her reading "Anne of Green Gables" to her class each year. Lewis passed away in 1984, and after retiring from teaching, Virginia enjoyed many trips to Europe and Southeast Asia. She also traveled the U.S. and enjoyed cruises. Virginia was an active volunteer with the Cancer Society, the Retired Teachers Association and her church. In 2008, Virginia moved to Fort Worth to be near her sister, Phyllis Wright, and her niece, Phyllis "Bunny" Gardner. They lived across the hall from each other at The Vantage at Cityview, a retirement community, where she enjoyed many of the activities, especially playing bridge. Her family wishes to thank the wonderful caregivers from Westside Caregivers and VITAS Hospice, who were always so gentle and loving to Virginia. Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis; parents, Gladys and Stanley Long; sister, Ruth Siefkes; and brother, Robert S. Long. Survivors: Sister, Phyllis Long Wright of Fort Worth; brother, Jack D. Long and wife, Virginia, of Belton, Mo.; five nieces; four nephews; several grandnieces and nephews; and many friends.

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