



## Etta Martin

April 5, 1915 - February 11, 2007

Etta Duma Pruitt Martin was born on April 5, 1915, near Abilene, Texas to Ottie Duma and America Etta McCollum Pruitt. Like most women of her era, she mastered the skills of cooking, cleaning, gardening, canning, and sewing necessary for raising a large family, as well as the skills to be a successful farmer and rancher. Her natural work ethic and drive only developed with such duties, including one she often recalled with nostalgia, cotton picking. Her dignity and grace in dealing with life's most common, as well as it's most profound and often tragic conditions has inspired countless others through the years to strive to follow her example of genuine caring, morality and strength of character. A matriarch in every sense, she has especially left an indelible mark on each and every member of her loving family. Having settled in Siloam Springs in 1963, she worked for the local Wal-Mart store for 16 years until she retired in April of 1982. She served on the founding Board of Directors of the Siloam Springs Adult Development Center and delivered Meals-on-Wheels, among other volunteer activities. She attended the East Kenwood Baptist Church and was involved in numerous activities as a member of their congregation. She regularly visited residents of a local nursing home and took the time to write their life stories for them to share with their own family members. Etta was an active member of the Siloam Springs Writer's Club. An accomplished personal historian, Etta evolved her love a story telling into a successful writing career. From an early age she took every opportunity to listen in on tales told by relatives and through the course of her

writing has managed to preserve those stories, as well as her own, for future generations. Her works include: "This and That", a personal biography with numerous short stories, two of which were published by the "Good Old Times" magazine in 2006, "From Etta's Kitchen", a book of recipes seasoned with stories of food and family, her genealogical works, "Chronicles of the Past" and "The Martins and Their Kin", "Over the Mountains and Through the Woods", an in-depth diary of her years in the Zuni Mountains of New Mexico, and her most widely read and well acclaimed novel of historical fiction, "Molly Anderson- The Saga of a Pioneer Woman", after having to rehabilitate herself, including having to relearn how to read and write, as effects of a stroke and corrective brain surgery. She attended many book signings in her honor, appeared on a local TV talk show, and was the subject of many newspaper articles and as published last year in the Calvert Texas Tribune, was "an engaging public speaker". At the age of 91 she continued to write daily on her second major novel until medical conditions prohibited. She was preceded in death by her husband Lindle Eugene "Curly" Martin, one son, Lindle Eugene "Sonny" Martin, two sisters, Mae Williams and Ethel Snell, and one brother, J.L. Pruitt. Surviving are her six daughters, and four sons-in-law, Faye Champagne and Bo Champagne of Mabank, Texas, Betty Steele and William Steel of Siloam Springs, Linda Miller and Dave Miller, of Colorado City, Colorado, Joyce Burns and Darene Bingham both of Springdale, Mimi Mathis and Jack Mathis of Fayetteville, and one son and daughter-in-law, Benny Martin and Vera Martin of Big Springs, Texas. Also surviving are two sisters, Nell Weisbach of Beaumont, Texas and Mary Boyd of Merkel, Texas, as well as 16 grandchildren; 88 great grandchildren, and eight great great grandchildren. Local memorial services will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 14, 2007, at East Kenwood Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, Arkansas with Rev. Marvin Loyd officiating. Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at Wasson Funearl Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 17, 2007, at Merkel First Baptist Church, Merkel, Texas, with a visitation prior to the service

from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ *I met Etta at Wal-Mart and through the Adult Development Center. Her grace and kindness have been some thing we should all strive to attain.*

*Surely, she is gently organizing things in Heaven.*

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**Kay Heggen** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

CK

“ *Betty and family, so sad to hear of Etta's passing, she was very deserving of the tribute you and your family wrote. Her love and kindness will never be forgotten.*

*Clara Kinzey*

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**Clara Kinzey** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

DF

“ *May God bless all.*

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**Dusty Fountain** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

AM

“ *Betty,  
I was sorry to read of your Mother's death. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

*Alicia*

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**Alicia Minden** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

VS

“ Was sad to hear of Etta's passing but glad for her sake. Just think! She has joined many friends in Heaven. A well-deserved "vacation" from earthly cares and physical limitations.

Her life on earth was so well spent. She was (and is) such an inspiration to me in developing talents and overcoming obstacles with grace and a good attitude.

I didn't see her often in the past few years but I will miss knowing that she is around and reachable.

My prayers are with you, her family.

Vivian Stockton

(I am missing the service as I am nursing a cold.)

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**Vivian Stockton** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

RL

“ Etta was a dear friend to my mother while she worked at Wal Mart. She always had such a sweet countenance and was a woman of kind, encouraging words to all who knew her. What a privilege it is for each of us to have known such a special person.

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**Rita (Sutterfield) Looney** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

WW

“ Were sorry for your loss. Betty, you wrote fine tribute to your mother in the Herald Leader.

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**Willie & Bev Williams** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

AB

“ I can't help but smile everytime I think of Ms. Etta. What a priveledge we had at the hopsital to get to know Memo and learn from her. I cherish my book and all my memories of her. She made a connection with everyone she met and made you feel as though you were her special friend. Her love for her family and people was so evident. I know the angels are celebrating to have one of thier own.

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**Amy Bradley** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

RK

“ Etta was a bright light in our Siloam Springs writers. I looked forward to seeing her at club meetings. She gave us such an inspiration to live an active, fulfilled life. We will all miss her.

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**Rachel Kulp** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

PK

“ Randy and family, I enjoyed working with Etta years ago at Wal-Mart. She was truly a special lady and was always so kind and friendly. She will be missed by many. May your memories of her and times spent together help you through the days ahead. May God Bless you all.

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**Patty Kinzey** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

KS

“ *It has been our privilege to have Etta as a friend. She was very dear to our family and to the Wal-Mart family in the company's formative years.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with each one of you. Etta was so proud of all her family. She so loved you all..*

*Our love,  
Keith and Mary Ann*

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**Keith & Mary Ann Sutterfield** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

EF

“ *Etta was a wonderful friend and co worker... We spent many breaks together at work... I just pray the family will be comforted at a time like this...*

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**Ellen Freeman** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

LF

“ *To the family of Etta Martin,*

*I knew Etta when she came to 1st Baptist (I was secretary there for 8 years). She was such a lovely person. I enjoyed talking to her - I am sorry I have not kept in touch with her the last years. You have my deepest sympanthy.*

*Lavada*

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**Lavada Ford** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

RW

“ I was such a pleasure to have known Etta, what a blessing she was. I worked with Etta at Wal-Mart in Siloam Springs in the early 70's. She was a gracious lady and such a very special person. She was the salt of the earth!

She will definitely be missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. May GOD bring each one of you comfort at this time.

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**Ron Welch** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

MM

“ We loved Etta! We will miss her. She was an inspiration to us all.

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**Marvin & Rosemary Matthews** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM

TR

“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this time; I pray God give you all the peace you need to get through this difficult time. May God bless you all.

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**Tonya Roberts** - September 19, 2012 at 11:31 AM