

## **DeEtte Wells McKeithen Williams**

### Obituary

DeEtte Wells McKeithen Williams aged 88 was preceded in death by her parents Jesse J. McKeithen and DeEtte Eglin McKeithen, her siblings Gov. John J. McKeithen, Dr. A. Eglin McKeithen, and JanEtte Meredith. She is survived by her husband of 66 years W.W. 'Bilbo' Williams, sons Bill and wife Betsy, John and wife Sallie, Brock and wife Susan, Stan and wife Lisa, Ben and fiancée Pam; grandchildren Trevor, Elizabeth, Perry, Melanie, Wyatt, Claudia, Evan, Brock, Maury, Alan, Dorothy, Johanna, Jesse, Andrew, Nathan, Devin, Ben, Mary, and Chris; great grandchildren Noah, Brianna, Emilia, Mabel, Michael, Emily, Justin, Brooke, Maya, Cody and Clay. Mrs. Williams was born in Grayson, Louisiana, in Caldwell Parish. The daughter of educators, she lived the small town life of school, church, and extended family. Her life was blessed by the miracle of a twin sister, with whom she was able to share every aspect of growing up – from the joy of playing together on a state championship basketball team to the anxiety and concern for family overseas in a war. She and her sister spent a year at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi, in preparation for attending Louisiana State University. Her idyllic time at LSU included membership in Pi Beta Phi sorority – a relationship she maintained in later years with her cherished "Tarnished Arrows." While at LSU she and her sister often double dated. On one of these dates she met the man who would become her husband. Soon after graduation they married and in rapid succession came children and a move to the tiny town of Hamshire south of Beaumont, Texas – if a blinking light and gas station qualifies as a town. Despite the difficulties of small children, long stretches alone while her husband was away at work, and life in an isolated area with no family, she often reminisced with great affection for these times. Always one to find the silver lining in every cloud, she turned the challenges of motherhood into a career and a calling. This selflessness allowed her to enjoy and experience the events of her later life with equanimity. Whether attending her brother's inauguration as governor, meeting the President at the White House, or playing the role of hostess as the boss's wife, she never changed. She was thrilled when a business opportunity brought her family back to Baton Rouge. As her sons grew up and moved on, she had more time for other things like being a docent at Magnolia Mound, compiling with her sister and cousin a book of family history, and making a pilgrimage to her family's ancestral origins in Scotland and England. As her life lengthened, her five sons blessed her with many grandchildren that she showered with love and affection. And when those kids got to LSU – a full refrigerator and washing machine. This open door policy extended to her nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends. Whether as Mom, Grandmother, or Aunt DeEtte, all were welcome at her door. As the last survivor of a small town Louisiana family that touched the lives of countless people in untold ways, she will be remembered for the standard she set for us, but most importantly with love and affection by all she touched as daughter, sister, wife, mother, and friend. Visitation will be held on Friday, Dec. 16 from 11 am until graveside service at 1 pm at Greenoaks Funeral Home.

See more at: <http://obits.theadvocate.com/obituaries/theadvocate/obituary.aspx?n=deette-wells-mckeithen-williams&pid=183088474&#sthash.1XdklZmt.dpuf>