



Bonita "Bonnie" Marie Cavanaugh

March 15, 1943 - January 12, 2026

Bonita Marie "Bonnie" Davis, age 82 of Whitehouse, Texas, passed away on Monday, January 12, 2026, in Tyler, Texas. She was born March 15, 1943, in Gilmer, Texas. She was the youngest of four children in her family. Her father, Dira Davis, worked for Texas Eastern Pipelines. They moved several times with his job. Her mother, Dollie Helpenstill's grandfather came over from Prussia, as the region was known at the time.

Bonnie started school in Little Rock, Arkansas, and remembers hearing the World War II bomber airplanes that would land there. They moved to near Newton, Texas for the rest of her elementary schooling. It was an old-fashioned one-room school with all the grades in it.

They moved to Tompkinsville, Kentucky for her 9th grade with the cold winter and a wood-burning stove in the school there.

The last move was to Castor, Louisiana for High School. Bonnie won a Betty Crocker Medal in Home Making class. She finished her graduation as class valedictorian.

Bonnie served as Administrative Assistant to the Chief Inspector of the Food & Drug Administration, Dallas, Texas. She met her husband, CJ Cavanaugh, at church there. After marriage, she put him through school to get him a teaching job at Tyler Junior College.

Bonnie got her degrees from Tyler Junior College and a Bachelors & Master's from Stephen F. Austin University. She had their son, Dr. Charles Cavanaugh, in Tyler.

In addition to being a mother and spouse, Bonnie worked tirelessly in the family's business, Creative Design. She designed many logos and helped paint many murals.

She will be laid to rest in her and her husband's crypt in Bascom Cemetery near Tyler.

Cemetery Details

Bascom Cemetery

12055 FM 848
Bascom Community/Smith County, TX

Events

Details are pending.