

Mom's favorite hobbies:

- Sewing
- Reading
- Research
- Yard Work
- Bird Watching

Mom's Favorite Foods:

- Bert's Southern Sweet Potato
- Bert's Southern Taco Salad
- Bert's Burgers
- Collard Greens, Okra, Bacon,
Black-Eye Peas and Corn
Bread

***Disclaimer: Bert hates, no loathes,
cooking and will never do so again!***

Mom's Favorite Gospel Hymns:

- One Day
- In The Garden

Mom's Favorite Place to Live:

- The Old Clay Hill in FLORIDA

Mom's Least Favorite Things:

- Clocks
- Calendars
- Cold Weather
- Nosy people (don't we all?)
- Doorbells
- Mexican Food
- Laziness

**Mom's Favorite Books and
Newspaper:**

- Birds & Blooms
- Nat Geo
- Reminisce
- Union County Times (The Mullet
Wrapper)

I wish to thank Bobby Clyatt and Larry Clyatt, both ministers of the gospel and each of whom I have known for over 6 decades and called, "friend." My only hope is that they can do the same. I also wish to thank the following whom I have called "Friend" for a minimum of 10 years and I believe every one of these was thought so by my Mom. Many have gone on before, but most of those reside in that Heavenly home, where all we Christians will abide.

They are listed here in no order whatsoever.

My Dad, my Mom and my northern parents; Mr. & Mrs. Jones and their son, Dave & his lovely wife Celine. My former Father-in-Law; Jim Testa. My son Brent and his mother, Jane and my two sweet Grandchildren, Ella and Aiden-A.J., for short. Ray Hoff, in Texas, and Earnest & Priscilla James, in Maine. Ken and Pat Patterson and their daughter Lori.

Jesus Wept

Message: Remembering Mamma by son, Bert

Scripture: John 11:35

Assisting Bert: Friends, Bobby Clyatt and Larry Clyatt

Songs: In The Garden & One Day

Video: Mom at Her Best

*Remembering Mamma**October 5, 2013**A Mother's Song**A Tribute to Mama Brooks*

You gave me life and nursed my pain
You wiped my tears when friends disdained.
In my happiness it was your eyes that told
Happier still when I searched the book of old.

You taught me to love Jesus and walk with God,
To look for our Saviour where angels fear to trod
After the thunder and lightning, behind the storms of rage,
A rainbow of love comes on the winds of change.

You have been my harbor of hope and sea of tranquility,
My river of love, strength and stability.
A mother's sigh, an empty nest...and a gentle tug.
A baby's cry, a tender caress...and a mother's hug.

As I walk with God you taught me well
I hear from Heaven the Holy Spirit tells.
Whippoorwills croon in the still morn's cold
--Still waters run deep in a mother's soul!

Happy Mothers Day, Mom, I love you more—
And not God less.

Your loving son,
Bert

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Mom's Obituary, October 5, 2013

Mom died on Tuesday, September 24th, 2013 at 6:40 P.M., while a resident of the Haven Hospice in Gainesville. She had spent 8 days there after in home Hospice care of two weeks prior. Mom's last place of "public work" was for GE in Hague. Before that she had worked at Copeland's in Alachua for 15 years after completing a stint with Big Dad manufacturing in Starke, Florida where she was a seamstress. That first official job was from 1950-1955. The last job of hers ended in 1973. From the time she married, until she obtained the job in Starke, she spent working the vegetable crops in the fields owned by Carl Brown, a local farmer and friend. Mom was most proud of the GED she earned in her 50's and even drove a school bus for a time.

Mom was born in the summer of 1927 as a fourth generation Floridian while her parents: Harley and Ella Carlton lived on the old Clarence Roberts (state representative) place where Harley worked for him on the farm. Times were tough and money tight, but faith abounded to this small family. Her only brother Amos had been born in 1925. He would later marry Joyce Dobbs of Raiford, the town, not the state prison I might add, and they would have two boys, Tony and Tommy. Mom's favorite sister, Leola (Lee) would follow in 1931 and she would marry Walter Turner of Providence. They had two boys: Robert and Mike. Alma would be added to the Carlton clan in 1936, and she would marry Marshall Parrish, son of Leon and Ida Parrish of Dukes, and they would parent two children, Nicky and Ricky. All the while the Carlton's continued to reside in the old Peeples Place. This stately old home would later be owned by Billy & Opal Howard, whose children consisted of Shands, Illa, Gloria-Nell and Barbara.

When Mom married DeWitt Brooks, the second oldest son of Walter and Rosa Touchstone Brooks, Dad began to build a shotgun cracker home on 60 acres, a couple miles west of the Peeples place at the cross roads of the Carl Brown and Roberts and Brown Still Roads. He was 26. She 16. Until then, they lived briefly with Granddaddy Harley and Granny Ella Carlton on the old Price Dukes place, where I was born in late 1944. Later Donald and Marie Dukes would own this cracker home where they raised three children, Jennie, Ray and Michael.

The Carlton's bought the old Dekles' Millpond (formerly a grits mill) near Dukes and set up shop there. The Brooks three began to live peacefully on the old Clay Hill. Mom and Dad lived there until Dad died in 1999. In 2000, we (my wife Bren and me) moved Mom out to that other country-Texas, where she resided with us until I fulfilled a promise to her and brought her back to her beloved Florida in 2010.

Mom was home at last.

Or was she?

In her later years Mom had beaten Pancreatic cancer for which she had surgery in Temple Texas in 2005. Afterwards she developed dementia (many times confusing Florida and Texas as well as friends and loved ones) and a continued battle with carotid artery disease. Ambulance calls and hospitalizations became legion as

her health diminished. Folks all around stated how youthful and pretty my Mom was and we all praised her on how she fought and beat illnesses that would have dropped the ordinary person. She indeed was a survivor.

Until May 22nd, 2013, ten days following Mothers Day, when she had a heart attack.

A stint was placed in the left descending artery, but the bypasses she needed could not be attempted, because of her deteriorating health. Again, she survived when I thought I had lost her in the hospital. She would be with me another 4 months before God took her home to the place we all yearn to be. Among her closest friends, past and present: Marie Dukes, Aunt Gracie Dukes, Marjorie Driggers, Bobby & Gloria Clyatt as well as Vera Clyatt. The Clyatt families and Touchstone families played a roll in her final years. I would like to thank Brother Thurmon "Murf" Murphy and his wonderful wife Karen, as well as Bren for being there for my Mom when she needed it most. John Taylor, my next door neighbor and golfing buddy in Texas, as well as our pastor and his wife; Don and Ms. Bettye who are also our neighbors. My good friend of 40 years and pastor, Herbert Parsons, who went to Glory just last year, was a steadfast influence. My friend Richard in Texas and some of those dearest are Brother Bob Lightner (who aptly refers to himself as the black sheep) here in Florida and my good friend, Bill Cook who recently lost his wonderful wife Gladys after almost 50 years of marriage. Jackie Stewart Johns and Joy Roberts Miles brought delicious food and friendship during the past month of Mom's earthly existence. Walter and Marilyn Clemons have continued to be the best of friends to Mom and me. Frances and Brenda Heckman and pastors & next door neighbors Paul and Becky Krintz, are two families from Texas who will always remain friends. I would like to thank our neighbors here as well. There is our transplanted neighbor, Betty, from Canada, as well as Karl and Bonnie and Darryl & Marla.

This special occasion is to remember the only Mother I have ever known. I have so for over 68 years. She set the gold standard of being a wonderful and faithful mom and instilling a faith in me that has lasted nearly as long. I wish to paint an intimate portrait of her to you today, so you too can add these to your favorite memories of her. She was special and one of a kind, although who of us can't say that about our Mother?

I wish to give special thanks (also thanks to the Doorman, Bob & Edna's son, James) to the one that put together these videos (DVD's) and has been a long time friend of mine. His expertise runs the gamut, but weddings, memorials, family reunions or special occasions are Priority One. Contact: Bob Lightner, Family Legacy Videos. Tel: (352) 871-6479.

Brooks Family Home Page: www.BertBrooks.com where you can view videos of Mom. Please leave a short message with a special thought of Mom. It means so much to me. Bert