



Verna Basso Gatlin

July 25, 1932 - March 27, 2013

Verna Vanda Basso Gatlin Verna was born at 807 East Mill Street, in Staunton, Illinois on July 25, 1923, the youngest child of Victor Dominic Basso and Paolina Gaetana Testolin. She passed from this life on DAY MONTH YEAR in New Orleans, La. Her parents were immigrants from Italy and even though Verna was born in the United States, she and her sister Velina Basso Brumme were included on the naturalization document when her father became a citizen. She attended Staunton public schools and graduated in the class of 1941 at Staunton High School. She was active in school as member of the choir and was a cheerleader. She was a member of the Staunton chapter of the American Red Cross.

After high school, she went into St. Louis to attend nursing school. She became ill the first semester and by the time she had gotten well, the school had been included in the cadet program during the war whereas all graduates of the nursing program would be sworn in as a nurse in the U. S. Army. Her father came and took her home. She went to work with a friend from the area who sold magazine subscriptions. She traveled with this group to North Carolina where she met 2nd Lt. Ollie Howard Gatlin from Franklinton, La., in October of 1942. They were married on January 13, 1943 at Ft Fisher, North Carolina by the Army Chaplin. She followed him to Texas and later California while he was in training for deployment to Pacific with the 389th AntiAircraft Battalion. Upon deployment she returned to Staunton to await the birth of her first child. Little did she know that for the next 30 plus years she would

become an expert in languages and packing. Verna spoke Italian, Japanese, French , and Spanish along with English. Her gift of languages made her a great help to other families who were transferred to foreign lands. At each base, she became a member of the Red Cross Gray Ladies. In 1965 Lt Col Ollie Gatlin retired from the military and the family moved to Folsom.

At the age of 50, Verna returned to nursing school and completed her LPN certification. She then attended Southeastern University in Hammond and completed her degree plan in social welfare. She spent 15 years volunteer teaching at Southeastern Mental Hospital. She served St. Gertrude's as the Nurse for the summer sessions for the handicapped children. For the last several years she had volunteered at the Folsom Schools as a reading tutor. Lt. Col Gatlin predeceased her in 1999 after 56 years of marriage.

Verna leaves four children, Ana Gatlin Hoyle, husband Bill of New Orleans, Andre Gatlin Skains, husband Robbie of Angleton, Texas, Karl A. Gatlin, wife Norma and Melissa A. Gatlin both of New Orleans.. She leaves 6 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Interment will be in Ellis Cemetery, Franklinton, La.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Dearest Aunt Maria and Uncle Bill, I was very saddened to hear about your Mom. I'm so sorry. She was a great wonderful, energetic, person. She was very funny and full of life and adventure. My condolences to the entire Gatlin family. Hope to see you soon. Love you, Hugs, Lauren

Lauren Pitcher Cardella - April 06, 2013 at 07:41 PM