Velma Louise Rainwater

WHARTON - Velma Louise Rainwater, 83, died Thursday, May 9, 2002.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Paul Thomasson officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery by Wharton Funeral Home.

Mrs. Rainwater was born Oct. 18, 1918, in Henderson, the daughter of the late Sam and Lonie Fears Houston. She graduated from Henderson High School in 1935.

She married Howard Berry Rainwater on June 27, 1937, in Henderson. She was employed as a receptionist at Rugeley-Blasingame Clinic for 22 years. She helped her husband manage Duke and Ayers prior to retiring in 1980.

She was a former resident of Henderson and Palestine and had lived in Wharton since 1948. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and served on the calling committee. She was a devoted Christian mother. After her retirement, she volunteered as a receptionist as Gulf Coast Medical Center.

She was a direct descendent of San Houston, the commander of the Texas Army during the Texas Revolution and the first president of the Lone Star Republic.
Pallbearers include Chris Rainwater, Todd Rainwater, Keith Rainwater, Randy Rainwater, David Rainwater and Kenneth Rainwater.

She was preceded in death by her husband on Jan. 24, 1992; an infant sister; and a brother.

Survivors include two sons, Edwin Rainwater and wife, Lucille, of Rockport, and Capt. Tom Rainwater and wife, Capt. Leslie Rainwater of Amarillo; a sister, Kay Nash of East Bernard; five grandchildren, Keith Rainwater, Terri Paterson, David Rainwater, Randy Rainwater and Todd Rainwater; and six great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to First United Methodist Church, 1717 Pioneer St., Wharton, TX 77488; National Kidney Foundation, 2400 Augusta Drive, Suite 252, Houston, TX 77057; American Diabetes Association, 2400 Augusta Drive, Suite 420, Houston, TX 77057; or American Heart Association, 2625 S. Loop West, Suite 510, Houston, TX 77054.