



## Lois Oswalt Walker

June 14, 1924 - March 22, 2018

### Lois Thornton Oswalt Walker

Lois Elaine Thornton Oswalt Walker, age 93, was born June 14, 1924 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and died March 22, 2018 in Hammond, Louisiana. She was the eldest of two children born to Virgil Earle and Janie Henderson Thornton. She grew up in Tuscaloosa and attended the University of Alabama for three years. When a farm boy from Fayette County, Alabama, John Macon Oswalt came to study at the university, they met, courted, and married. They were married for over 50 years, celebrating their 50th Anniversary in June of 1993.

Upon Macon's graduation, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as either a supply preacher or pastor during his time in graduate school. Upon his graduation, he accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Blanchard, LA (just northwest of Shreveport).

During their time there, Lois completed her college requirements and graduated from Centenary College in Shreveport. She also gave birth to two sons, Lynn and Lon. After three years in Blanchard, they moved to Bogalusa around 1950 and then to Hammond in 1954. Two additional children, Lewis and Lori, were born in Bogalusa and Hammond, respectively.

Reverend Oswalt served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Hammond for 31 years, retiring in 1985. Throughout those years, Lois served as a stay-at-home mom and was a fixture at Zemurray Park (Little League games) for a

dozen years. In the churches they served, she sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, was involved in mission's organizations and served in many other roles where help was needed.

Later she went to work as a secretary, serving for many years at Hammond High School where she worked with a number of different administrators and got to know literally hundreds of students. Even in her later years, she could hardly go out to eat or any other public place without being recognized and spoken to by former colleagues (teachers and administrators) and student who recognized her and wanted to say "Hi".

Not long after Rev. Macon Oswalt died, Lois was contacted by a long-time friend and recently retired pastor, Rev. I.D. Walker, who was himself a widower. After a short courtship, they married and lived very happily for a little over two years before his death.

Lois leaves to cherish her memory her four children: Dr. Lynn Oswalt (Jan) of Baton Rouge, Rev. Lonn Oswalt (Charlotte) of Clinton, Miss., Dr. Lewis Oswalt (Lisa) also of Clinton, Miss., and Mrs. Lori Hamel (Don) of Pumpkin Center. She is also survived by twelve grandchildren and thirty- seven great-grandchildren.

Lois remained active in church, garden club, water aerobics, and other activities until just a couple of years ago. She also enjoyed singing in senior adult choirs at churches in the Hammond-Ponchatoula area, as well as attending meetings of the local Baptist association of churches.

Over the last decade of her life, she was a resident of either Live Oak Assisted Living or Summerfield in Hammond. Needless to say, she had a very positive influence on her family and friends, her neighbors, her church community, and the many young people with whom she had contact during her time at Hammond High.

The family wishes to thank the many care-givers, (especially faithful sitter Mary Lou Sharp), that have assisted her in so many ways, including church members who generously provided transportation so that she could continue to attend church and other activities until her health began to fail. She was 93

when she died on Thursday, March 22, 2018.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation held at First Baptist Church, Hammond on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. until the Celebration of Life service at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Jeff Robinson will officiate the service and interment will follow at Parklawn Gardens Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made in her honor at the First Baptist Church, Hammond.

# Cemetery Details

## Parklawn Memorial Gardens

41372 Thompson Dr.  
Hammond, LA 70403

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 25. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
Hammond, LA

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR 25. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
Hammond, LA

# Tribute Wall

MC

“*Mrs. Oswald was such a lovely, kind & energetic lady at Hammond High. My prayers are with your family & sweet Ms. "O".*  
*Myra Cannino*

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**Myra Cannino** - April 06, 2018 at 04:43 PM

AS

“*It was my pleasure to have met Mrs. Lois at Summerfield Senior Living. I know she is now in her perfect heavenly body in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God's blessings and comfort to her family and friends.*

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**A. J. Sommers** - March 26, 2018 at 10:18 AM

 David Strahan

“*I worked with Ms. O for many years at Hammond High. Once we even took a ride together on my Suzuki motorcycle! While the principals thought they were running the school, the rest of us knew Ms. O really did. She was like that Mom or grandmother who would give it to you straight but always lovingly. Sad for her family (including hundreds of H.H.S. students, faculty, and staff) but the thought keeps running through my mind, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."*

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**David Strahan** - March 24, 2018 at 08:07 PM



“*As a young girl I'll always remember her kind words, smiles and deeds. A faithful wife, mother and friend to my mother, Ann Wilson, who became the secretary of the First Baptist Church. My condolences go to her sons and daughter, great grand children, grand children and to the hundred who knew and loved Lois.*

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**Debbie Moran** - March 24, 2018 at 02:49 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

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**Gordon and Eloise Anderson** - March 23, 2018 at 03:55 PM