

In South Texas, she added her beautiful alto voice to the church choir, community choirs, and singing with her family. At BHRC in Bronte, she enjoyed singing whenever the occasion arose. She passed that love of music to her children and grandchildren.

Reta received many honors and citations in her life, including being named "Woman of the Year" by the Business and Professional Women's Club and "Falfurrias Citizen of the Year." She touched the lives of many people in South Texas and had a large extended family. More than just her own children called her 'Mom' and she was 'Grandma Reta' to so many. Whereas she is greatly missed, her legacy will live on in all those she influenced, nurtured, and loved.

Reta was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill McBride; brother, Doug Bennett; and sister, Marilyn Colton. She is survived by her son, Peter (Hortencia) McBride of Mission, Texas; two daughters, Christine (Geoff) Morrison of Ellinger, Texas and Karen McBride (Yogi Miller) of Blackwell, Texas; one sister, Sherlie (Sherman) Vangsnes of Bandera, Texas; five grandchildren, Catherine Sweeny, Eva Nix, Dennis McBride, Anna McBride, and Bill Miller; five great-grandchildren, Sophia, Emmie and Isaac Sweeny, and Marshal and Presley Nix, three step-grandchildren and their 6 children, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Reta's funeral was Monday, April 23, 2012, at First Presbyterian Church in Falfurrias, Texas, under the direction of Funeraria Del Angel Howard Williams. She was buried next to her husband Bill, and now they are dancing across heaven together.

Memorials can be made to Southern Brooks County Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 57, Encino, Texas 78353 or the charity of your choice.

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**...Fort Chadbourne**

(Continued from front page)

Next, there is a stagecoach, donated by Janet and Tommy Hickman, where many will want to stop for a photo opportunity before entering the huge walk-through vault. Over 300 authentic antique guns are on display, Native American artifacts, sabers, knives, military and cowboy artifacts, along with stories and items that make up the history of Fort Chadbourne. There is also an abundance of area ranching and family history. You can even look through the window of an old ranch house and imagine yourself stepping back in time.

Another unique area is the Medal of Honor display. Here original Medals of Honor are on display, includ-

ing two from the Purge of 1917. Also, a wall listing 3,456 names of the 3,475 Medals awarded honor those who have received America's highest honor. Fort Chadbourne had six Medal of Honor recipients who received the medal for their actions during the Civil War. Those men have been highlighted with their own plaque.

Other unique features include the antique bar that was part of the Zappe Saloon in Ballinger, Texas, during the early 1900s. It was donated by Elaine and Wade Clifton. Behind the bar is a one of a kind Lifetile created by Rufus Butler Seder. It depicts an 1850s cavalry officer riding past an 1856 lithograph of Fort Chadbourne. As you walk past, the rider moves across the screen as the lithograph remains still. Other art hangs throughout the building.

The gift shop is housed in an antique bank teller cage. Once part of the The First National Bank of Ballinger, the brass teller cages and marble walls add another dimension to the Center.

The new building is also home to a research library with over 6,000 books. Anyone wishing to use the library may make an appointment by calling the Fort. It also houses new administration offices and a huge outdoor pavilion to be used during events such as the Fort Chadbourne Days Living History Event which will take place May 5, 2012.

The gang at Fort Chadbourne urges you to stop by and see this new historic addition to Coke County. There is never a charge for tours, although donations are always welcome. So mark your calendars for the next two weekends. There are things to do in Coke County! Come see "The New Star In Texas"!

For more information call 325-743-2555.



**Barn Burns!** Two members of the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department observe the damage caused by a fire Saturday afternoon, April 21, 2012. The structure is a barn owned by Jim Allen, local TPWD game warden. Although Allen was away, Sheriff's deputy, Brandon Neal was able to move the TPWD vehicle parked nearby.

**Catfish available for ponds**

Due to recent rains, there are some tanks in the county which do have water in them. If you lost your fish this past year due to the drought and were fortunate enough to get the silt removed before the welcome rain, now is the time to consider restocking. Please contact Donna Waldrop at 453-2623 ext. 3 or go by the USDA Service Center at 214 E. 7th Street in Robert Lee. If no one is available, please leave a message.

**Donations needed for May 5 Street Affair garage sale**

The Robert Lee Street Affair is still accepting donations for their huge fundraising garage sale to be held May 5, 2012, at the corner of 8th and Austin St. (Wildcat Taxidermy) in Robert Lee.

It's getting close, so if you have items to donate, please call John Hayes at 650-4499 to arrange drop off or pick up of items. There will also be hot dogs, chips and drinks for sale during the day. Please help support the Street Affair by donating your unneeded or unwanted items for the sale.

Anyone interested in joining the Street Affair Committee is encouraged to attend the next meeting May 8, 2012.

**Red Hat Mamas meeting held**

The Red Hat Mamas met at Noel's, west of Robert Lee on Thursday, April 5. They had a great time catching up with friends and had a wonderful lasagna dinner. They then decided to plan the get-togethers for the rest of the year to make it easier for people to make plans to join

them. You can make as many or as few of the lunches as you wish.

Mark your calendars now for May 3, 2012, at 11 am at the City Cafe in Blackwell (to carpool from Bronte, be at the Bank parking lot at 10:30am) and June 7, 2012, 11 am at Rangel's in Bronte.

You are welcome to join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life. They are usually together for about an hour or so. Whatever they do, they have fun. There are no dues, no rules, no business, but lots of good fun, food and fellowship. Each woman buys her own lunch.

Ladies under fifty can wear something lavender and a pink hat and ladies at or over 50 usually wear something purple and wear a red hat.

For more information or directions, call Janet Wommack at 473-5388

Ride On In...

It's Free!

The New Star In Texas!

GRAND OPENING

Fort Chadbourne  
Visitor Center

Over 300 antique guns, military and ranching displays  
Medal of Honor display, stagecoach, antique bar and bank,  
theater, gift shop, and so much more.

April 28, 2012

Saturday Ribbon Cutting 9:00 a.m.  
Doors Open Shortly Thereafter

And don't miss...

Fort Chadbourne Days  
Living History Event

Sat., May 5, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hayrides to see the buffalo and longhorns, see  
the cannons and gatling gun fire, cavalry and  
infantry drills, buffalo hunters, spinners, shoot  
a sharps rifle, sutlers and so much more.

Tour the new 12,500 sq. ft. Visitor Center!

Free Admission!  
But, donations are always welcome!