



## Bessie West Lea,

October 27, 1918 - October 20, 2011

Bessie West Lea Hazlehurst Bessie West Lea, 92, passed away on October 20, 2011, at Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital. Visitation will be from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Stringer Funeral Home in Hazlehurst on Friday, October 21. Her funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 22 at Stringer Family Chapel in Hazlehurst. Interment will follow in Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church cemetery on Carter Hill Road. Born October 27, 1918, Bessie was a lifetime resident of Copiah County, having worked at Copiah Bank, Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital, Copiah County Courier, and she was a co-founder and officer of West Farms, LLC. She is a graduate of Whitworth College in Brookhaven and Hazlehurst High School. She was an active member of Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church in Hazlehurst and the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 25 in Hazlehurst, where she served in many capacities. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edgar Franklin Goza, Sr. and Honor Elizabeth Goodrich Goza, her husbands, James Halbert West, Sr. and E. C. Lea, her infant son, Joe Frank West, and her sisters, Edwina Goza Gallagher and Katherine Goza Connell. She is survived by her children, Anna Carolyn West Coates, James Halbert West, Jr., Walter Sims West II (Genie), Martha Elizabeth West McKinley (Peter); her grandchildren, Renee Coates Harrison Berry (Roger), Lisa Coates, Amy Coates Falcon (Kevin), Joe Buck Coates (Karen), John Thomas Coates (Brandi), Elizabeth Frances McKinley, Hunter James McKinley, Peter Beto McKinley, Charla West Edwards (Brian) and Walter Sims West III (Emily); and great-grandchildren,

Brodie Jackson, Heather Harrison, Holly Harrison, Jessie Grace Cole, Connor Coates, Grayson Coates, Emily Claire Coates, Mary Beth Coates, Ramsey Edwards, Adam Whittington, Blake Whittington and Elise Whittington; her brother, Edgar Franklin Goza, Jr., her sister, Carolyn Goza Ensign; her special nieces and nephews, Katherine "Cacus" Connell Bergin (Pat), Joe Connell (Marianne), Mike Connell (Donna), Steve Connell (Ruth), Jerry Goza (Nona), Duane Goza (Kathy), Linda Goza Williams Daigle (Bruce); and dozens of great-nieces and nephews and countless friends. The family thanks Dr. Randy Hankins, Dr. Bob Walker, Dr. Ken Whittington, 2nd floor nurses and staff of Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital, and caregivers Maria Johns, Renee McCardle, Nikki McCardle, and Debbie Westrope for the kind and loving care provided to our mother and grandmother during her final days. Words are inadequate to express how much your simple acts of kindness meant to her and to us. May God richly bless each of you. Memorials may be made to Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church, Children's Ministry of Hazlehurst United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 25, or to a charity of your choice.,

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bessie West Lea,*

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January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM