

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MOM?

[Mary Jo Denton](#)

Herald-Citizen Staff

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Putnam Circuit Court Clerk Marcia Borys, second from left on front row, and her staff had plenty to say about moms for Mother's Day. Front row, from left, are Twauna Stuart, Borys, Lauren Essex, Mary Dyer, Linda Pippin, Bettie Braswell; back row, from left, Keith Farley, Lisa Bilbrey, Vickie Callahan, Wanda Parrott, Wanda Keith, Denise Loftis, Leisa Ryans, Sherry Pippin, Vicki Capps, Cindy Polk, Wilma Brown, and Pauline Hamilton-Tubbs. Herald-Citizen Photo/Lindsay McReynolds

COOKEVILLE -- What made your mom a good mom?

Ask that question randomly, and it is surprising how similar the answers are. Truly, moms leave a legacy of unconditional love.

Last week, I asked that question to the women who staff the Circuit Court Clerk's office in the Putnam Justice Center.

Here, for Mother's Day, is what they said:

Wilma Brown said her mom, **Evelyn Holloway**, "provides a home where we are always welcome, lots of love, and good home cooking. Her love is and always has been unconditional and never ending."

Leisa Ryans said her mom, **Beulah Haney**, lived by the Golden Rule, always doing what was right and creating a happy, loving home.

"She would always do something special for each of us. I always remember when she would bake a cherry pie, she would give me that sweet smile because she knew that was my favorite. She was the ideal mom in my eyes, and I will always cherish the memories I have of her."

Twauna Stuart says her mom, **Lee Stuart**, "has always been there for her daughters."

"She's the first to arrive in times of trouble. She has taught us to be brave, but as she fights cancer now, she shows us what grace, bravery, and determination really are. I am a lucky daughter."

Vickie Lynn Callahan says this about her mom, **Virginia Lynn**: "For all the trouble I have put her through, she still lets me call her Mom in public. She is as pretty today, inside and out, as she was when Dad married her. We are so blessed."

Bettie Braswell's mother, **Dora McBroom**, has been dead for 10 years, but "she was the best mother, and I still miss her," Bettie said.

Vicki Capps also lost her mother, **Chris Davidson**, 10 years ago. Vicki recalls the special way in which moms teach children.

"What I now realize was how much she sacrificed and did without to take care of three children. She never complained, showed favorites, or let us see if she was troubled. I never realized her strength until she was gone and I was raising my son. She was quiet and patient. I didn't even know I was being taught until the child became the teacher. Her love for me I pass to my son."

Wanda Williams touches on another special trait of most moms when she talks about her mom, **Vallie Huddleston** of Baxter.

"What is great about my mother is the fact that even though she had 11 kids, she was able to treat them all fair."

Lisa Bilbrey, talking about her mom, **Sandy Welte**, notes another common trait of mothers: they always show up at your ball games, plays, recitals, or whatever.

"My mother is a great mother. She was always there for my brother and me growing up. She always supported me and came to anything that I did in school and continues to support me now as an adult. That means a lot to know that she made time to be at everything I did.

"She is a wonderful Christian example. She always remembers special occasions like birthdays and makes them the most important day of the year. If she is ever sick, you wouldn't know it. Nothing stops her. As I get older, we get closer and I am very blessed to have her in my life."

Cindy Polk says her mom, **Maire Qualls**, is "just so special."

"She has done so much for all of us. We want her to keep going full force. We wish her a happy Mother's Day. We love her very much."

Mary Dyer says her mother, **Minnie Lee Allen**, was "a very kind and thoughtful person."

"She was always doing and helping others unselfishly, and she was always there when I needed her and was understanding."

Wanda Parrot's mom, **Ruby Shelton** of Jamestown, is "a woman I will always remember," she said.

"She worked to give her children the best that she could. She taught us about Jesus and the values of life. She's a mother and a friend. I love her."

Pauline Hamilton-Tubbs picks out one of the reasons her mother, **Nardie Hamilton**, is special to her: "She took the time to care for a relative's child while caring for a sick husband."

Marcia Borys can't find enough adjectives to describe her mom, **Clara McDonald**.

"Loving, caring, giving, thoughtful, generous, encouraging, wise, hard-working -- all are characteristics I associate with my mother. My boys and I are so blessed to be raised by such a wonderful Christian mother and grandmother who is always there for us. Through tears or laughter, we can always count on her. So many others have adopted her, and we are willing to share this very special lady."

Sherry Pippin says even though her mom, **Carolyn Jones**, has had health problems for several years, she has "always been so strong."

"She hardly ever missed work, and I get my work ethic from her. I admire her so much. She has always been there for me in the happy times and in the sad times. She always has the best advice, and it usually works. She is a wonderful Christian woman who loves her family. I love her very much."

Lauren Essex says her mom, **Rhonda Essex**, taught her this valuable lesson: "To put my faith in God."

"She knows what is best for me and strives to make our family better each day. We have shared many special memories that will last for a lifetime."

Keith Farley says her mother, the late **Joan Speakman Lewis**, was "my best friend."

"She was very caring, loving, and giving, always doing for others. We shared an unconditional love for one another. She taught me to live, to laugh, to love, but most of all, she taught me to love God and to look to him for guidance. My mother may be absent from this earth, but she's in the presence of God and she will always be in my heart."

Another universal truth about great moms is that they don't have to be your biological parent, as is evident in the following comments:

Denise Loftis said, "My grandmother, **Estelle Hix** of Gainesboro, was my mother. She raised me from the time I was six weeks old after raising eight children of her own. She was a very special Granny, and I never felt I missed anything growing up because I was so loved and cared for."

Linda Pippin said her mother-in-law, **Kathy Pippin**, "is more a mother to me than a mother-in-law."

"She treats me just like one of her own children. She is a real sweet lady and would do anything for me. She helps me raise my daughter. I love her just like a real mother."

Wanda Keith says her mother-in-law, **Pearlie Keith**, was the "answer to a little girl's prayers."

"I was not blessed by a mother, but I was double blessed to have the mother-in-law I did get. She was the answer to each line I had prayed for when asking for a mom. She is missed now, but my memories will last a lifetime."

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Robert "Bob" Goodman

PERU, IN -- Funeral services for Robert (Bob) Goodman, 72, of Peru, Ind., formerly of Baxter, were held Oct. 15 at Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home in Peru, Ind. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Denver, Ind.

Mr. Goodman died Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2005, at his residence.

He was born June 1, 1933, in Baxter to the late **Jethrow R. "Jess" Goodman** and **Mary Jane Marcum Goodman**.

His family includes his wife, Mary Sue Smith Goodman; two sons, Robert Jr. and Jimmy Lee Goodman, both of Peru; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Cathy Sue and Leon Jones of Baxter, Janet Goodman of Peru and Anita and Ronald Flitcraft of Peru; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; **a sister, Vallie Huddleston of Baxter**; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, **Hazel Mahan**, Nancy Dunn and Vinnie Biggs, and two brothers, Henry and Luther (Luke) Goodman.

Memorial donations may be made to Guardian Angels Hospice of Kokomo, Ind.

Information provided by Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home, 105 West Third Street, Peru, Ind. (765) 473-6674.

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Hazel (Goodman) Mahan Obt.

Funeral services for **Hazel Goodman Mahan**, 76, of Cookeville will be held at 2 p.m. today, Tues. Sept. 6, from the Baxter chapel of Hooper Huddleston and Horner Funeral home. Burial will be in Smellage Cemetery.

Mrs. Mahan died Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

She was born Sept. 27, 1928, in DeKalb County to the late **Jethrow R. "Jess" Goodman** and **Mary Jane Marcum Goodman**.

Mrs. Mahan was a homemaker and of the Church of God faith.

Her family includes two daughters and sons-in-law, Paulette and Lillard David Leftwich of Baxter and Pam and Bobby Caruthers of Cookeville; two sons and daughters-in-law, John Wayne and Darlene Felts and Richard and Charlotte Felts, all of Cookeville; **a sister, Vallie Huddleston of Baxter**; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Sue Goodman of Peru, Ind.; six grandchildren, Tanetta Felts, David Wayne Felts, Myronda Covington, Rachel Wright, Chester Upchurch and Ronald Joe Caruthers; five great-grandchildren, Anna, Laura and Faith Wright, Hunter Upchurch and Grace Leftwich.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Ronnie Kelly; two sisters, Vinnie Biggs and Nancy Dunn; and four brothers, William Henry, Luke, Winfield and Brigham Goodman.

Pallbearers will be family and friends.

Bishops Robert Christian and Jewell Travis will officiate the services.

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MAHAN, HAZEL (GOODMAN) FELTS KELLY - b. 27 September 1928, DeKalb Co., TN - d. 4 September 2005, Cookeville, TN

HUSBANDS: md 1st Mr. Felts, md 2nd Babe Kelly & md 3rd Mr. Mahan

PARENTS: Jethrow R. Goodman & Mary Jane Marcum

(Jethrow R. Goodman, b. 1881 - d. 1958 & his wife Mary Jane (Marcum) Goodman, b. 1893 are both buried in the Dobbs Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN located in the 8th district of Putnam Co., TN. Also buried in Dobbs Cemetery is Luther Martin Goodman, b. 6 July 1914 & his wife Vallie Lee Goodman, b. 16 July 1918; Henry Goodman, b. 17 February 1912 & his wife Irene Goodman, b. 2 Febraury 1927 - d. 25 May 1985).

(1900 census 13th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 23 - Riley W. Goodman is head of household, 53 yrs. old, b. February 1847, TN, md 24 yrs. to Nancy A. , 53 yrs. old, b. February 1857, TN. Children: Ruth P., 23 yrs. old, b. September 1876, widow; John L. 19 yrs. old, b. August 1880; Jenette, 18 yrs. old, b. May 1882; Charley, 12 yrs. old, b. December 1887; Gethro, 9 yrs. old, b. March 1891 & Ora L. Goodman, 3 yrs. old, b. July 1896. All born in TN).

(1910 census 13th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 36 - Riley Goodman is head of household, 63 yrs. old, M2, TN md 34 yrs. to Nancy, 53 yrs. old, TN. Children: Charley, 22 yrs. old: Gethroe, 19 yrs. old & Ora L. Goodman, 14 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1920 census 13th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 41 - William R. Goodman is head of household, 73 yrs. old, TN md to Nana A., 62 yrs. old, TN. Living in the household: Gethroe Goodman, 28 yrs. old, TN, widow; William H., grandson, 7 yrs. old; Luther M., grandson, 5 yrs. old & Nancy M. Goodman, granddaughter, 4 1/12 yrs. old. All born in TN).

'We Will Always Love And Miss You'

(picture on tombstone)

(*See Hazel (Goodman) Mahan Obt.) (*See Ronnie E. Kelly Obt.) (*See William Henry Goodman Obt.)

(*See Robert "Bob" Goodman Obt.) - - <http://www.ajlambert.com>