

Georgia Felter Legett

Mar. 25, 1919 – Mar. 16, 2010

Georgia Routh Felter Legett, M.D. passed away in the afternoon of March 16, 2010. She was born in Austin on March 25, 1919, to Rosalia Riedel Felter, whose husband, George— Georgia's father— had been killed in an accident five months earlier. Georgia was preceded in death by her parents; her brother John Vincent Felter; grandson Jon Christopher Legett; and her husband of sixty-eight years, Carey Legett, Jr., M.D., who died on January 8th. She is survived by her children, Carey (Rey) Legett III, of Austin; George Ann Nelsen (Mark) of Leander; Jon David Legett (Debbie) of Pflugerville; and Susan Legett Edwards (fiancé Kendall Carlton) of Colorado Springs, CO.

Also surviving are her grandchildren: Carey (Chip) Legett IV; Scot Nelsen (Callie); Greg Nelsen (Rebecca); Matt Nelsen (Amy); John Nelsen (Marta); Sarah Legett Ellis (Zach); Zachary Legett; Jonathan Legett; Emily Edwards; Alissa Edwards; and Andrew Edwards. She is also survived by her brother-in-law Bob H. Legett (Irene) and her sister-in-law Louise Felter; several nieces and nephews; and six great-grandchildren.

Her mother was a driving force in Georgia's life and was a role model for both Georgia and John. After Georgia's birth, the little family spent a few years on the family farm near Webberville before moving back to Austin where, in 1935, three months before her sixteenth birthday, Georgia graduated from Austin High School as salutatorian of her class.

She graduated from the University of Texas at age nineteen, and entered medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), where she met her husband, fellow medical student Carey Legett, Jr. They married at University Presbyterian Church, Austin, on September 5, 1941, after which Georgia completed medical school while Carey did an internship.

Georgia then graduated from UTMB in 1942. During World War II, while Carey served as a flight surgeon in the China-Burma-India Theatre, Georgia completed an internship at Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston. She then moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, to begin specialty training in obstetrics and gynecology at the Jersey City Medical Center and later at the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital. Upon his return from the war, Carey joined Georgia in New Jersey and completed his residency in ophthalmology in New York. In the fall of 1949, the Legetts moved to Austin and began practicing together in their offices at 1707 Colorado St., and later at 2904 Swisher St. Georgia brought with her the "Pap" smear, a lab test she learned from Dr. George Papanicolaou in New York.

She donated many hours of service to those who could not pay, particularly missionaries. Georgia practiced medicine until 1992, delivering thousands of babies, and was known to pray with and for her patients. Georgia was on the Board of Directors of the Austin Parent-Child Association. She served as President of the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and was named Outstanding Woman for Leadership in Medicine by the Austin Professional Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc. She was on the staff of St. David's, Brackenridge, and Seton Hospitals, and served for two years as Chief of Obstetrics-Gynecology at St. David's.

Georgia was named Career Woman of 1964 by the Austin American-Statesman, and she was a member of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women from 1966 -1968. Georgia and Carey spent many years traveling the globe, visiting all seven continents as well as all fifty states. In 1962, the Legett family enjoyed the first of many happy vacations at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, where Georgia served on the Board of Directors for many years. For eighty years, Georgia was a faithful member of University Presbyterian Church, where she served as elder and as a member of many church committees.

She would want all to know that her life was God-directed, that every life is a miracle, and that she lived in service to others. The Legett family would like to thank Hospice Austin (Shelley, Dr. Eckert, Sarah, Peggy, Marlene and others) for their guidance and expertise during the last days of Georgia's life. We would especially like to thank Jimmy Holley, Sofia Lira, and Olivia Meraz for their nearly two years of compassionate service as caregivers to both Carey and Georgia. Also, we are grateful for the many meals delivered to the home over the past several months by friends and members of the church. A memorial service will be held at University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio, on Friday, March 26, at 10:30 a.m., with Dr. San Williams, senior pastor, officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to University Presbyterian Church or to the YMCA of the Rockies.