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Lula Mae was born on September 14, 1909, in Hillsboro, Texas to Elbert Ben Gooden and Maude Kitty Echles. While growing up in Hillsboro, she accepted Christ at an early age and graduated from Peabody High School as valedictorian of her class.

After attending Prairie View College for two years, she was requested by the ministry and local school board of Rotan, Texas, to assume a teaching position, which she held for approximately two years.

In 1930, she met and married the late James Earl Gilliam, and to that marriage was born a Earl Ben.

Lula Mae and James Earl resided in Clovis, New Mexico, for approximately three and one-half years, and after James Earl's tour of duty as a dining car waiter, they moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1938. In 1940 the family moved to San Diego, California, where, during the war, Lula Mae and James Earl were employed by Convair (General Dynamics) until approximately 1946.

She co-founded, with her husband, the Louisana Seafood Market, a very successful business which they owned and operated for over thirty years.

Upon the death of James Earl in 1974, Lula Mae

retired and thereafter became very active in the Presbyterian Church.

Since the late fifties, she had been a member of the Golden Hill Presbyterian Church (later called Christ United Presbyterian Church) where she served in the following capacities:

President of the San Diego Presbyterial;

Commissioner to the United Presbyterian General Assembly;

Chairman of the Crisis Center;

Deacon and Elder of Christ United Presbyterian Church;

Representative of Women's Association to the Presbyterian Women's National Meeting;

Chairman of the Rewarded Circle;

Coordinator of the Church Women United "World Day of Prayer" and "World Communion Day"; and

President of the Women's Association.

She went home on December 12 after a brief illness.

She leaves to survive her a son, Earl, two grandsons, Earl Kenneth and Derrick James, a step- grandson, Frank L. Swain, and many other loving relatives.