

Dorothy Ann Thornton | 1927-2015

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Dorothy Ann Thornton

Dorothy Ann Thornton, 88, of Chico, previously of Bowie, died Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015, in Chico. Memorial service is noon Sunday, Nov. 8, at the First Presbyterian Church of Bowie with Pastor Joe Gambill officiating. The memorial will immediately follow church service.

Dorothy was born Oct. 5, 1927, in Haskins, Ohio, to Herbert C. and Mary M. Schutzberg. She married Troy O. Thornton Dec. 27, 1947, at the Haskins Federated Church. Dorothy grew up on a farm in Haskins during the Depression. During World War II, she worked as a secretary. She helped package K-rations for the soldiers and grew a victory garden. When the war was over and Troy returned, they dated and married a year later. They continued to farm and started a family. Dorothy and Troy lived in various places from coast to coast until they came to settle in Texas in 1980.

Dorothy enjoyed gardening and could grow anything. She was active in the First Presbyterian Church and still loved singing in the choir. If there was anything that needed to be done, she was always there. Dorothy and Troy helped crew for their sons' hot air balloons when they attended the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. She always had food for after the flights, and everyone called their van the "chuck wagon." She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and would be found reading to them often. She was active in the community of Bowie, delivered Meals on Wheels for years with Troy and helped with the pancake breakfast at the Bowie Senior Center until they moved to Chico to live with their daughter and son-in-law.

Dorothy was active and enjoyed walking to the post office to pick up the mail and an Update. She was loving and had a big heart. She never had a complaint about anyone or anything and always had a smile on her face. Even in death, her work is not done. She willed her body to UT Southwestern for medical study in hopes of helping other cancer patients. Dorothy will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Mary Schutzberg; and her brother, Jimmy Schutzberg. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Troy Thornton; brother John Schutzberg; sons Ronald Thornton and wife, Carol, Mark Thornton and wife, Bobbi, and Dana Thornton and wife, Denise; daughter Carol Fatheree and husband, Gary; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. To honor Dorothy, be active in your community, be kind, show love, give back to others and make a difference in someone's life.