



Thelma Ward Parker

April 26, 1922 - May 21, 2015

Thelma Ward Parker passed away Thursday, May 21, 2015, at the age of 93. She was in the 4th generation of an 8 generation family of Floridians who were born and raised in Florida. Thelma was born April 26, 1922 to Lonnie Franklin Ward and Rebecca Nix Ward, and was their last living child. She lived in Leesburg (Hawthorne At Leesburg) for more than 9 years before moving to Enterprise, Florida after the death of her husband Ralph N. Parker. She and Ralph were married for nearly 60 years and were members of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, where she also attended the Bykota Sunday School Class. Thelma was a devoted homemaker to her husband and a wonderful Mother to her three daughters. She was a very happy lady and was known to always wear a smile on her beautiful face, and her Christian spirit was obvious to all she encountered. She often told her children and grandchildren that if they had love in their lives, but only a dime in their pocket, they were richer than anyone else. Thelma was an accomplished painter, sculptor, Jewelry maker, violinist, pianist and organist. But, some of her best talent came when she was in the kitchen cooking. Her personal recipes were so special that she eventually wrote her own cook books, which have been for years treasured by her family and friends. After her children were grown, she and her husband moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where Ralph was the Lock Master at the Miraflores Locks in Panama. They lived in Panama for 18 years before his retirement. They eventually moved back to Florida and lived in Leesburg. After Ralph's death in 2000 she remained in her Leesburg home until 4 years ago, when she moved to Stone Island in Enterprise, Florida to live with one of her daughters.

Survivors include her 3 daughters - Sharon A. Parker of Tavares; Karen J. Smith of Astatula and Norma J. McCraw of Enterprise, Florida. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida at 11:00 A. M., Friday, June 5, 2015.

Events

JUN **Inurnment** 11:00AM

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Florida National Cemetery

6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, Bushnell, FL, US, 33513

Comments



“ Dianne, David, Steven, Laura, Matthew. purchased the Fields of Europe for Spring for the family of Thelma Ward Parker.



Dianne Maxwell - May 29, 2015 at 03:09 PM



“ Life on Lanvale with the Parkers and the Wynn's are some of my earliest memories of Thelma and Ralph Parker. What a wonderful childhood we had, growing up with Sharon, Karen and Norma. My mother and Mrs. Parker were stay at home mother's, that cherished their children, and brought us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Mrs. Parker and the girls were there when my mother, daddy and Sandra Kay brought me home from the hospital, and Mrs. Parker gave me my first bath. Thelma and Ralph remained lifetime dear friends, to my parents. My prayers continue to be with all of the family. Bless be the ties that bind our hearts in Chritian love. Our loss, is heavens gain as Thelma went to be with our Lord Jesus, and all the loved ones that had gone before her.



Donna Avery - May 25, 2015 at 10:09 AM



“ 5/24/15
Dear Sharon, Karen, Norma and extended family,
So sorry to hear of your beloved Mother's passing. My heart floods with memories of our childhood as we grew up together on Lanvale Ave. Of course, Norma and I were always into mischief. Mrs. Parker and Mother had to keep eyes on with us. Sharon and Karen always sweet, kind and loving. What a joyous childhood we had. All of us looking out for my Sister Donna. The baby of the group. We all loved her so and protected her. I cherish those memories. I hope with time, the loving support of family and friends you find comfort and solace in the knowledge that your Mother had a full, influential and rich life, one well lived. My love and caring for all of you never waivers. Sincere condolences with love and hugs,
Sandra Kay Wynn Hebert

