



Ruth Marcum Thornton

August 14, 1935 - July 27, 2016

RUTH MARCUM THORNTON, 80, of Kermit, WV, passed away at home on July 27, 2016, after a lingering illness.

Ruth was born August 14, 1935, in Tomahawk, KY to the late Virgil and Dixie Williamson Marcum.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Byron "Windy" Thornton, Jr.; two daughters, Elaine Endicott (Dr. J.W.) of Kermit and Leslye Thornton of Winston-Salem, NC ; two sons, B.W. Thornton, III (Dr. Alice) of Lexington, KY and James Thornton (Karon) of Raleigh, NC; eight grandchildren, Dr. Elizabeth and Katherine Endicott of Huntington, Matthew, Zachary and Benjamin Thornton of Lexington, Madeline, Sam and Clay Thornton of Raleigh. Ruth is also survived by one brother, Dr. C.L. Marcum (Rita) of Missoula, MT and special niece, Tammy Gartner (Randy) of Vancouver, WA.

Ruth was a graduate of Kermit High School and Marshall University, where she received her degree in Elementary Education. She was a member of the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. Ruth worked along side her husband as co-owner of Thornton's Department Store in Kermit.

Ruth and Byron were married on November 24, 1954 at the Kermit United Methodist Church. The couple went on to spend 18 months in Germany where

Byron was serving with the U.S. Army, residing with a German family in Weinheim, Germany and traveling to various locations throughout Europe.

Ruth was a woman of strong Christian faith and member of Kermit United Methodist Church where she served in many leadership roles, including Children's Sunday School Superintendent, Director of Vacation Bible School and President of Kermit United Methodist Women.

Ruth was a leader in many community activities in the Kermit area,. She was especially passionate about promoting outreach and activities for children. Most notably, she founded and led the Kermit Chapter of the Girl Scouts of America. Throughout her work with the Girls Scouts, she touched the lives of many young girls in the area and was awarded the highest honor of distinction for volunteer work from the Girl Scouts of America.

Ruth was instrumental in fund raising activities to purchase uniforms for the newly formed Kermit High School Band. She served in a leadership position to establish the Kermit City Park. She served as a member of the Mingo County Library Board and volunteer for the Christian Help organization.

More than anything, Ruth's greatest joy came from being loving wife, mother and grandmother Her spontaneous, bright smile and engaging personality spread joy to all who knew her.

Visitation will be held on Friday, July 29 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Richmond-Callaham Funeral Home in Inez, KY with additional visitation from 12:00-12:30 p.m. at Kermit United Methodist church prior to funeral services. Funeral services will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, July 30, 2016 at Kermit United Methodist Church, with Reverend Brad Davis officiating. Interment will follow at Mountain View Memory Gardens, Maher, WV. Donations may be made in memory of Ruth to Kermit United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 455,

Kermit, WV 25674. Arrangements are under the direction of the Richmond-Callaham Funeral Home, Inez, Kentucky.

Cemetery Details

Mt. View Memory Gardens

Maheer, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 29. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Callaham Funeral Home, Inez Location
278 West Main St.
Inez, KY 41224
(606) 298-3501
kellycallaham@yahoo.com
<http://www.richmond-callaham.com>

Visitation

JUL 30. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Kermit United Methodist Church
Kermit, WV

Service

JUL 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

Kermit United Methodist Church
Kermit, WV

Tribute Wall

TK

“ Tommy, Keeze, Rusty, Kelly and Kim purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Ruth Marcum Thornton.



Tommy, Keeze, Rusty, Kelly and Kim - August 01, 2016 at 10:18 AM

NR

“ Nora Ray lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Nora Ray - July 30, 2016 at 06:28 PM

DM

“ Ruth was a wonderful caring lady. When I would take Mother & Daddy to shop at Thorntons, they spent more time visiting than shopping. They enjoyed many years of knowing Ruth.

Deresa Cassady Ray MacDonald - July 30, 2016 at 06:14 PM

MH

“ I first met Ruth when I moved to Inez at age 22. I needed a few new suits for my bank job and Debbie suggested I go to Thorntons. Ruth and Wendy let me buy the clothes on credit - kept track of the debt in a handwritten ledger. I'll never forget their kindness and trust. I enjoyed seeing Ruth year after year at the Marcum family reunions. Her great family - kids and grand kids - is a testament to her strong values.

Mark Haertzen - July 30, 2016 at 10:33 AM

AS

“ Ruth was a beautiful, kind lady loved and respected by so many. She always had a smile and kind word. So sorry for your loss. I know you will miss her.



Anna Stepp - July 30, 2016 at 08:20 AM

GS

I remember ruth as a very kind and sweet lady. Sorry for your loss sending love and prayers to her family.

Geraldine Farley Spence - July 30, 2016 at 06:30 PM

KF

“ Ruth was my Sunday school teacher when I was a little girl growing up in Kermit living over top of a beer garden . She showed me much love and kindness never looking down on us but always treating us just like everyone , I loved her and thought so much about her as I grew up to be a mother trying to show the same love she showed me . Thank you so much I'll miss your smiling face . Sorry I couldn't be there I'm out of then but wanted your family to know how much she meant to me being a little girl needing someone to make me feel I was as good as anyone else . You were blessed with the best . Praying gods love will hold you close as you have to say good bye to your wonderful mother . Kathy Preece Fitzpatrick

Kathy Fitzpatrick - July 30, 2016 at 02:03 AM

ND

“ Nannie & Arbie Dillon lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Nannie & Arbie Dillon - July 29, 2016 at 10:09 PM

CN

“ Dear Leslye and family,
I met your mother once when we were working and traveling in the Kermit area in 1992. I will never forget the impression she, and your father made on me. I remember her enthusiasm for education, hard work, faith, and family.

I was especially impressed with her encouraging her children to experience the world outside of Kermit and West Virginia. Reading the book is fun but traveling the country and world and making your individual way in life is what I believe really pleased Mrs. Thornton.

Leslye, Pam and I will keep you and your family I our prayers.
Clyde Nicely

Clyde Nicely - July 29, 2016 at 07:22 PM

SC

“ Sandra Marcum And Children lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



sandra marcum and children - July 29, 2016 at 05:03 PM

SC

ruth will be missed she was a great lady Sandra Marcum and children

sandra marcum and children - July 29, 2016 at 05:06 PM

HM

“ *Sadness fills my heart as I attempt to write about the love Ruth showed to all who were blessed to know her. Ruth's smile always greeted you; Ruth's infectious laughter tickled you; Ruth's caring, loving heart warmed your soul. Ruth, my friend, you gave so much to others without hesitation. I praise God for placing you and Windy in my life's pathway for over sixty years. Knowing, loving, and teaching your Thornton bunch ---Elaine, B. W., James and Leslye--- was indeed a pleasure. My memories, Ruth, of you and your warm, gentle, caring spirit fills me with humble gratitude. I again thank God for you and know
Heaven is a much sweeter place now because you are there. Adios, mi amiga Ruth, Yo te amo. Vaya con Dios. I will forever miss you.*

Herb Muncy - July 29, 2016 at 04:07 PM

VR

“ *Vivian Ross lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Vivian Ross - July 29, 2016 at 02:53 PM

VR

Be a sister to every other Girl Scout is the last line of the Girl Scout law. Ruth held the sisters in our troop together by being everyone's second Mother. Scouting seemed like family. She always wanted to give the scouts great opportunities, while instilling respect and honor. When I was a scout, Ruth was there anytime needed. Even in adulthood many sad times in my life, I looked up and there she stood. Ruth lived the song "Make New Friends but Keep The Old: One is silver and the other's gold". A big THANK YOU to Elaine, Leslye, BW and James for sharing your Mother with us. She will be loved always by many.

Vivian Ross - July 29, 2016 at 03:28 PM

ML

“ Michael LaVera purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ruth Marcum Thornton.



Michael LaVera - July 29, 2016 at 01:51 PM

CC

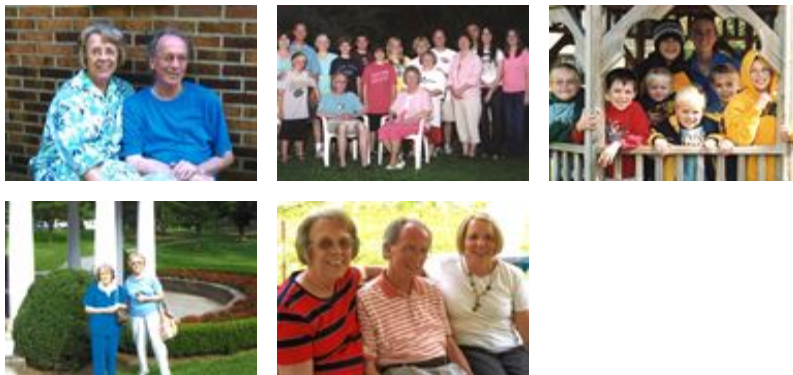
“ *"Remembered joys are never past; at once the fountain, stream and sea, they were, they are, they yet shall be." I know Byron and all the family will find great comfort in their wonderful memories of this beautiful lady. I remember attending Byron and Ruth's wedding at the Methodist Church when I was a teenager, and later attending their children's weddings and the various family reunions. Mostly I'll remember Ruth's laughter and smile. My prayers and deepest sympathies are extended to my cousin Byron and all the extended family.*

Carol Carlton

Carol Carlton - July 29, 2016 at 01:31 PM



“ 80 files added to the album Life Tributes



Callaham Funeral Home - July 29, 2016 at 01:27 PM

JM

“ *Very nice lady, will be missed..*



julius-judy marcum - July 29, 2016 at 12:55 PM

DP

“ *Dica Parsley-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Dica Parsley-Johnson - July 29, 2016 at 12:34 PM

DP

A wonderful Christian, Wife, Mother...so much can be said about Ruth. She was always so happy and joyful every time I saw her. She was loved by so many and will be so missed. Praying for comfort for Byron and all the family.

Dica Parsley-Johnson - July 29, 2016 at 12:43 PM

DC

“ *Deb Collier lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Deb Collier - July 29, 2016 at 11:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ruth Marcum Thornton.



July 29, 2016 at 11:19 AM



“ *Rita Dials Stafford lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Rita Dials Stafford - July 29, 2016 at 09:16 AM



“ *Doris Asbury lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Doris Asbury - July 29, 2016 at 09:13 AM

CP

“ There are no words to explain the void the town of Kermit will feel without this wonderful lady. I have known her and Byron since I was a young child. They have inspired me in ways I will never understand. Although she is gone her memory lives on in my heart as well as many others. Such a fine lady and loving friend. Windy you are forever in my prayers and thoughts. Heaven is rejoicing today for another great soldier has been called home. Love to all the family as I have felt part of this family for years. we love you all and our family is praying for you.

Charles and Billie Parsley - July 29, 2016 at 09:04 AM

KC

“ I remember as a young child I attended vacation bible school at the Kermit Methodist church. The first thing I would see when I walked in the door was this amazing lady's smiling face greeting me with a hug. She made me feel so special and I looked forward to seeing her each night I attended. I grew up hearing stories from my dad of Thornton's store and how Ruth and Byron always treated their customers like family. As an adult I have had the opportunity to work with Windy and have been blessed to have known Ruth . My dad always spoke of them with these words "You can search the world over and never find any two finer people then Ruth and Byron Thornton." I have come to realize just how true this is. Although my heart is breaking for the family I rejoice for another great angel heaven has gained. The town of Kermit and other surrounding communities has lost a great woman but we have been inspired by her and her memory will live on for decades to come. Byron you are in my prayers and I love you and your family and I know God will strengthen you in the days to come.

Kayla Collins - July 29, 2016 at 08:59 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth Marcum Thornton.*



July 29, 2016 at 08:04 AM



“ *Anthony Sartin lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Anthony Sartin - July 29, 2016 at 06:50 AM



My Prayer are with the Family! Sorry for your lost, Your Mom was a great person.

Anthony Sartin - July 29, 2016 at 06:57 AM



“ *Dear Wendy and family,
So many years have passed since we have seen you, guessing maybe 50. When we were young Wendy would open the store late in the evening and the Stepp, Barrett, and Nickels families would come down from Williamson and shop. We would then go to your home. Such fond memories. Rest in peace Ruth. Prayers for the family.*

Love

Sharon Nickels Blackburn

Winchester, Ky

Sharon Nickels blackburn - July 29, 2016 at 06:02 AM

NR

“ *Such a great loss. So many of us loved her. Sending love to you & your family Byron.*

Nancy Rouse & Joel Nossoff



Nancy Rouse - July 28, 2016 at 11:38 PM

JC

“ *Truly one of the most genuine persons I have ever known. Her voice and laugh was easily recognizable by anyone who knew her. Kermit has lost another great friend and one that we all will sadly miss. My sympathies to the family I watched you all grow up even Wendy he loved to play softball with us .I still have my THORNTONS team shirt they sponsored John Paul Chafin school house holler Kermt WV BC (before Columbus)*



john chaffin - July 28, 2016 at 10:41 PM

MC

“ *Marty Crank lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Marty Crank - July 28, 2016 at 10:36 PM

BO

“ *Leslye, I have great sadness for her departure but there is great rejoicing for her arrival in Heaven. She and Debbie are "whopping it up" for sure. Prayers for your Dad and the rest of your family as you endure this monumental loss.*

Bob Otey - July 28, 2016 at 10:26 PM

PS

“ *Patty Salmons lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Patty Salmons - July 28, 2016 at 10:23 PM

EN

“ *Elaine Newsome lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Elaine newsome - July 28, 2016 at 10:16 PM

RM

“ *Rhonda Messer lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Rhonda Messer - July 28, 2016 at 10:09 PM

DD

“ *BYRON, MY MOM RUTH GOBLE, AND HER DAUGHTER DEBBIE, SO SORRY TO HERE ABOUT RUTH. YOU ALL WILL BE IN OUR PRAYERS.. DEBBIE GOBLE DUNN*

DEBBIE GOBLE DUNN - July 28, 2016 at 09:51 PM

JC

“ *Such a wonderful lady, she will be greatly missed. Sending much love to the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*



Jenta Cheung - July 28, 2016 at 09:31 PM

PG

“ *Patty Grace lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



patty grace - July 28, 2016 at 09:29 PM

EH

“ *Emily Howell lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Emily Howell - July 28, 2016 at 08:58 PM

SN

“ *Steve & Dimple Newsome lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Steve & Dimple Newsome - July 28, 2016 at 08:33 PM

EC

“ *Eula M Chafin lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



eula m chafin - July 28, 2016 at 08:27 PM

LD

“ *Luann Dials lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Luann Dials - July 28, 2016 at 08:22 PM

LD

Great Lady to all, so many memories.

Luann Dials - July 28, 2016 at 08:23 PM

AM

A wonderful care and giving lady Blessings to all her family

alice messer - July 28, 2016 at 08:51 PM

RH

Ruth and Wendy Thornton were two people in all my years at Kermit High and Jr. high I knew I could depend on to be there for the students and faculty if needed. So sorry to hear the sad news about Ruth. A great person and great family.. Ronnie and Linda Hatfield

Ronnie Hatfield - July 28, 2016 at 09:00 PM

ER

“ I have known her all my life growing up in the Crum area she and her husband used let me buy my clothes for school I miss that old store God Bless the family

Ernie Richardson - July 28, 2016 at 08:10 PM

AW

“ So sorry she had to go, but enjoyed a lot of good memories through the years with Ruth . May God bless and keep her family.



Anna Mae Sartin Wellman - July 28, 2016 at 08:08 PM

KR

“ Kathy Rose lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Kathy Rose - July 28, 2016 at 07:54 PM

KR

“ Kathy Rose lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Kathy Rose - July 28, 2016 at 07:51 PM

JS

“ *Jane Hale Sammons lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Jane Hale Sammons - July 28, 2016 at 07:48 PM

CR

“ *I had the pleasure of knowing Ruth through my friendship of her daughter, Leslye. They would always take the time to come and visit me at the store I worked in the Huntington Mall. Her warmth and kindness were always so comforting. When I visited their home in Kermit, she made me feel so comfortable and I certainly enjoyed her wonderful cooking. I know she was a wonderful, kind and loving person because she instilled those same qualities in her daughter, Leslye, who has been my close friend for close to forty years . I know this will be difficult for Leslye and her family, but knowing how many people she truly touched with her loving heart will give them comfort. I am honored to have known her and I love her and I will miss her.*

Chris Rog - July 28, 2016 at 07:39 PM



“ I HAVE A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES OF RUTH AND HER FAMILY. HER DAD VIRGIL WAS MY PRINCIPLE AND HER MOTHER DIXIE WAS MY TEACHER. I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH HER BROTHER CAROL LESLIE. RUTH ALWAYS HAD A BEAUTIFUL SMILE FOR EVERYONE SHE MET. SHE AND BYRON RAISED AN OUTSTANDING FAMILY. I COULD GO ON AND ON THE WAY THAT SHE TOUCHED ME AND MY FAMILY'S LIFE. SHE WAS A SHINING EXAMPLE TO EVERYONE WHO MET HER. MAY GOD BLESS BYRON AND THE FAMILY IN THESE TRYING DAYS AHEAD. I LOVE YOU ALL AND WILL KEEP YOU IN MY PRAYERS.

Clayton Meade - July 28, 2016 at 07:33 PM

CM

“ Cathy Meddings lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



cathy meddings - July 28, 2016 at 06:58 PM

CM

So sorry, prayers to all her family. She was a wonderful lady, she will sadly be missed! 🙏

cathy meddings - July 28, 2016 at 07:02 PM

AB

SO SO SORRY FOR YOUR GREAT LOSS. MAY GOD BLESS AND GIVE YOU COMFORT TODAY AND ALWAYS. LOVE AND PRAYERS..

Avis Bragg - July 28, 2016 at 07:07 PM

WN

“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts & prayers are with you. May God bless & comfort you.



Wanda Newsome - July 28, 2016 at 06:50 PM

JS

“ Johnny And Terrie Stepp lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Johnny and Terrie Stepp - July 28, 2016 at 06:45 PM

KM

“ Ruth had a gentle caring soul that will be missed by many. Prayers for the family that they will have comfort in knowing Jesus has greeted her home.

karis Messer - July 28, 2016 at 06:42 PM



“ Patty Moore lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Patty Moore - July 28, 2016 at 06:24 PM

SC

“ Ruth loved greeting shoppers as they entered Christian Help, Mondays are dim without her smiling face and joy filled personality. 2 weeks ago she signed paperwork, as a Board member, for a grant to obtain a new van for our transit system. I have given back to God a dear woman and friend. I am sure Loida Crum and she are having a reunion full of laughter and a few shannigans. Rest in peace and breathe in the fullness of eternal life with ease. Love & prayers to all will feel the void she leaves behind.
Sister Therese Carew



Sister Therese Carew - July 28, 2016 at 06:21 PM

SC

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Sister Therese Carew



Sister Therese Carew - July 28, 2016 at 06:20 PM



“ Shirley Muncy lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Shirley Muncy - July 28, 2016 at 06:00 PM

SS

“ Her smile was the first thing I saw when she entered the gym at Tug Valley Ballgames... 🙏 Praying for all the family during this sad time in your life.



Sharon Sutters - July 28, 2016 at 04:20 PM

JM

“ Jamie & Elaine Meddings lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton



Jamie & Elaine Meddings - July 28, 2016 at 04:12 PM

MP

“ I loved Ruth. She always had a smile. She made growing up and being in the girl scouts, something to look forward to and look back on with great pride and fondness. Love her family also. Praying for Gods' peace for you in the coming days.

Melanie Preece - July 28, 2016 at 03:10 PM

GM

“ *Georgia Messer lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



Georgia Messer - July 28, 2016 at 02:29 PM

BM

“ *BOBBIE MARCUM lit a candle in memory of Ruth Marcum Thornton*



BOBBIE MARCUM - July 28, 2016 at 02:15 PM

BM

Prayers for the family. This lady will be missed. Love you Ruth Thornton. George and Bobbie Marcum.

BOBBIE MARCUM - July 28, 2016 at 02:17 PM

AK

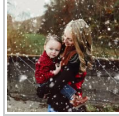
Ruth was always so kind to me when I was growing. I remember a party that she allowed James to have at their house for our classmates. We had such a good time! I feel truly blessed to have grown up in Kermit with such wonderful people as the Thornton family. My heart goes out to all of the family. Sending you love, hugs and prayers, especially to my sweet friend James. Andrea (Preece) Kennard.

Andrea (Preece) Kennard - July 28, 2016 at 03:54 PM

BC

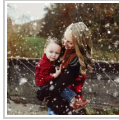
Prayers for the family, she will truly be missed by all who were fortunate to know her.

Betty Crum - July 28, 2016 at 04:04 PM



I will never forget how Ruth made me feel, She made me feel important when I was in Girl Scouts! She had a kind spirt! Never in a hurry when I had a question! Will sure miss her, May God comfort the family!

Susan Ratcliffe - July 28, 2016 at 06:16 PM



Susan Walker Ratcliffe!

Susan Ratcliffe - July 28, 2016 at 06:16 PM

LW

“ Love, Adam, Mary, Lacie & Haley White purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ruth Marcum Thornton.



Love, Adam, Mary, Lacie & Haley White - July 28, 2016 at 09:02 AM