



Ora Lee Binkley

January 28, 1915 - August 1, 2019

Ms. Ora Lee Binkley, born January 28, 1915 to Rev. R. N. and Mary Binkley in Detroit, Texas. She died August 1, 2019, believing in the assurance of an everlasting life she accepted when she was a little girl growing up on a farm in Lucas, Texas. Her sisters, Velma Binkley, Lavonia Martin, and Lela Barnes and her great-great-nephew Christopher Barnes preceded her in death. She is survived by her nephews, Dr. James Binkley Barnes, wife Jeanie and their son Alan Barnes; his wife, Diana and their children, Emily, Gabriel, and Benjamin; and Dr. Ben Lee Martin, wife Weslynn, their daughter, Heather Novak, her husband Kent, their children Travis and Jack; their son Matthew Martin, his wife Capriccio, their children Milo and Brody; and Dorothy Furr, Ora Lee's last surviving first cousin out of 19. Ora Lee's father was a Baptist minister who pastored country congregations. He died when she was 10 months old, leaving her visually impaired mother and her three sisters without means of support. She and her family moved into the home of her uncle, Irby Heifner, and into a large extended family. Despite destitution during the time of the Great Depression, Ora Lee and two of her sisters, Lela and Lavonia, took turns attending college for a year, teaching for a year, and supporting each other until all three received their degrees from North Texas State Teacher's College (now the University of North Texas) in Denton. Her first teaching job during her college years was in the community of Wetsell, where she was the last teacher in Collin County to teach in a one-room schoolhouse. She later taught in Allen, Garland, and Dallas at San Jacinto and Hotchkiss. She was the penultimate first-grade teacher, starting hundreds of 6-year olds with a proper and disciplined educational experience. Since 1948 Ora Lee's church home was Gaston Avenue Baptist Church, later Gaston Oaks Baptist Church. She spent her life in service to her family, her students, and her church. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed. Services for Ms. Ora Lee Binkley will be held Monday, August 5, 2019 at 11:00 AM at Restland Funeral Home which is located at 13005 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas 75243. Funeral arrangements for Ms. Ora Lee Binkley have been faithfully entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery, which is located at 13005 Greenville Ave., at the intersection of Restland Road, Dallas, Texas 75243, and can be reached at (972) 238-7111.

Comments



“ Here is my memory and tribute to Miss Binkley. As children start or return to school this week I fondly remember my remarkable first teacher who died recently at 104 and also offer a plea to support our schools.

<https://joegoldblatt.scot/back-to-the-future-of-school>

Joe Goldblatt - August 26 at 04:57 AM



“ I have just now heard about this..... so sad. She was my first grade teacher . I was trouble from the start... she would grab a ear and a desk (at the same time) and before you knew it... I was in the hall. I have talked about her for many years .. She was a great person and Teacher.... RIP

David Byrne - October 14, 2019 at 03:38 PM



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David Byrne - October 14, 2019 at 03:38 PM



“ “First grade teacher?” is one of my favorite security questions. I love to think of Mrs. Binkley and do so often. If she never married, and remained a “Miss”, I can’t change that I thought of all my teachers as Mrs. I was sick one day in first grade at Hotchkiss. I ran to the attached restroom with Mrs Binkley hot on my trail. The sink was first and I only got that far. She yelled, “No! Not there!” I was startled, began crying and being sick. She felt so bad for scaring me she was tender and sweet to me for the rest of the year. One of my favorite memories is her face when she realized she had made me cry. To those who loved her all your years, you were blessed. She is at home.

Lucia Scurlock Boone - October 03, 2019 at 04:25 PM



“ Ora Lee was our neighbor. She lived across the street from us, her family living in this neighborhood years before we ever thought of moving in. She was a very kind person, compassionate but firm when she needed to be. She liked a good joke or story. She was caring to the end. Mostly, she will be missed in this world. I am already wondering what she is seeing and doing in the next. A new adventure.

Neal Griffith - August 04, 2019 at 04:54 PM



“ Dear Ora Lee was our neighbor and friend. We were graced with her company for several decades. She and her sister, Lela were a frequent stop on our daily walks. We enjoyed their stories and humor, kindness and grace. I don't know if women like Ora Lee will pass my way again; but I am certainly grateful she did. I know you are on the wings of angels my friend. Love to you and the family.

Judy E. Graham, PhD - August 04, 2019 at 04:33 PM