



Mary Lou T. Howington

October 20, 1923 - January 2, 2018

In the wee hours of January 2, 2018, Mary Lucinda (Mary Lou) Thomas Howington slipped from this world into the next. She was a gentle soul who loved being of service to others. A bible verse she often quoted was “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Mary Lou was born October 20, 1923, into a loving, spiritual family in High Springs, Florida, to Mary Lavonia Townsend (Tippy) and Martin Zona Thomas. A graduate of the Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, with a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Florida, she spent her working career as an elementary school teacher, beginning in Fort White, Florida and retiring 39 years later from Sallye B. Mathis Elementary in Jacksonville (formerly Forest Hills Elementary). After her retirement from teaching, she enjoyed serving as a volunteer at Memorial Hospital.

A woman of faith, folks knew she would be at church just about every time the doors were open. In Jacksonville, she was a long-time member of the Forest Hills Baptist Church and later moved her membership to the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. She worked in the telephone ministries there and regularly visited home-bound church members. As she grew older, she found a loving community for her faith at that church's Ortega Campus.

Mary Lou always loved to sing. She began singing in her church's choir as a teenager, where she would sing duets with her sister, Marguerite, and continued to sing in her church's choirs until she was 86 years old. She almost

always had a song in her heart.

She will be remembered by all who knew her for her faith, her humility, and her sense of humor. She is preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Valance G. Howington, Jr. She is survived by her two children, Bill Howington and Valarie Howington, her son-in-law, Jerry Johansen, one grandson, Cody Light Johansen, and many beloved nephews and nieces. She has now joyfully joined her seven siblings (J.W.Thomas, Jewell Kraemer, Aquilla Thomas, Ethel Browning, Rufus Thomas, Marguerite Coats, and Barbara Kate Addison) in heaven.

A memorial service will be held January 20, 2018 at 1 PM at the Ortega Campus of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, located at 4865 Roosevelt Boulevard. In lieu of donations, spread a little kindness. Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 20. 1:00 PM (ET)

Ortega Campus of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville
4865 Roosevelt Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL

Tribute Wall

FH

“ *She was, also, a teacher in High Springs. When I last saw her not too long ago, she still remembered me being in her class, although it was more than 60 years ago that she taught me. High Springs and community was always a special place to her.*
Fe' Collar Hardee

Fe' Collar Hardee - January 19, 2018 at 05:42 PM

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“ *I always recall Mrs.Mary singing in the choir at Church.She looks very similar to my late Grandmother, and i really thought a lot of her.I know she is in Heaven now singing Praises to our King Jesus!*

Andrew Lau - January 19, 2018 at 04:13 PM