

Troy Orlo Thornton | 1926-2015

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Troy Orlo Thornton

Troy Orlo Thornton, 89, of Chico, formerly of Bowie, died Sunday Dec. 13, 2015, at home. Memorial service is 12:15 p.m., following the 11 a.m. church service at the First Presbyterian Church of Bowie Sunday, Dec. 27, with Pastor Joe Gambill officiating.

Troy was born May 11, 1926, in Haskins, Ohio, to George and Loretta Thornton. He married Dorothy A. Thornton Dec. 27, 1947, at the Haskins Federated Church. Troy grew up on a farm in Haskins during the Depression. During his senior year, he enlisted in the Navy and upon graduation served during World War II in the Pacific. He was present for the invasion of Iwo Jima and gave support offshore.

When the war was over and Troy returned home, he and Dorothy 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 and in-between until they settled in Texas in 1980. Troy was trained by National Cash Register, which started his long career in computers. He was active in the First Presbyterian Church and still loved singing in the choir. Troy and Dorothy helped crew for their sons' hot air balloons when they attended the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. He was active in the community of Bowie, delivered Meals on Wheels for years with Dorothy, and they helped with the pancake breakfast at the Bowie Senior Center where he earned the title "Pancake King."

Troy loved to read and could be found picking out books at the Chico Library. He was active in the Wise County Veterans where he showed his love of country. He was a dedicated family man and believed in strong family values. He was in love with his wife and wasn't afraid to show it on a daily basis. He and Dorothy still held hands and said "I love you" until the day she died. Even in death, his work was not done. He willed his body to UT Southwestern in hopes of helping medical studies.

Troy was preceded in death by his parents, George and Loretta Thornton; sister Olive Green; brother Brice Thornton; and wife of 67 years, Dorothy. He is survived by his sons, Ronald and wife, Carol, Mark and wife, Bobbi, and Dana and wife, Denise; daughter Carol Fatheree and husband, Gary; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. To honor Troy and Dorothy, love your family, respect them and cherish the time you are able to spend with them whether they are near or far. Be active in your community, give to others and try to make a difference in the lives of others.