

# Singleton, Mary Lavonne (Motsenbocker) | 1921-2017

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Mary Singleton

Mary Lavonne Singleton, 96, of Bridgeport, died Sunday, July 30, 2017, in Bridgeport.

Graveside service is 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at the East Bridgeport Cemetery with the Rev. Larry Potts officiating. Honorary pallbearers are members of the Bridgeport Police Department.

Jones Family Funeral Home in Bridgeport is handling arrangements.

Mary was born May 29, 1921, in Bridgeport to John and Ollie (Holt) Motsenbocker. She grew up on a farm along the Trinity River between Bridgeport and Paradise, where in her words, she lived an idyllic life, along with her five siblings.

During the Depression, her family would often travel to West Texas to pick cotton. At 12 years old, Mary picked as much cotton as most grown men. On Jan. 9, 1941, Mary married the love of her life, Ray Singleton, in Alvord. Shortly thereafter, Ray's Army unit was deployed to the war in the South Pacific, where he subsequently became a prisoner of war for 42 months. Mary never gave up on Ray, saying she always knew he would make it home.

After the war, Mary and Ray made their home on their small Happy Hollow farm in Bridgeport, raising four children there. Mary loved nature and everything about it. She loved to bird-watch, walk through the woods with her dog Bo and admire the colors of spring and fall foliage. Even well into her 90s, Mary would ask Melanie to drive her around the countryside so she could continue to observe the beauty of God's earth.

She loved her husband and children and made them a home that was warm, loving and fun. For more than 96 years, she lived her life in service to her Lord, using her love, kindness and humor to be a witness for God's love.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; sisters Barcilee Chapman and Doris Cocanaugher; brothers Joe Motsenbocker and Ralph Motsenbocker; and grandson Brandon Ray Singleton.

She is survived by daughter Melanie Singleton of Bridgeport; sons Jeff Singleton and wife, Laura, of Bella Vista, Ark., Randy Singleton and wife, Judy, of Bridgeport and Brent Singleton and wife, Debbie, of Bridgeport.

Other survivors include sister Oleta Nix and husband, Joe, of Austin; grandsons Jay Singleton of Plano and Carl Stephens and wife, Rachel, of San Antonio; granddaughters Ashley Watts of Denton, Tammie Seymore and husband, Brian, of Bulverde and Arin Stephens of Little Rock, Ark.; and great-grandchildren Bella, Kelsey, Jonathan, Alice and Marcus.