

## **Ballew, Geraldine 'Gerry' (Thormaehlen)** 1933-2023

By <u>Donna Bean</u> | Published on October 25, 2023 Geraldine "Gerry" Ballew, 89, passed away peacefully in Bridgeport on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023.

Visitation was Monday, Oct. 23, 2023 at White's Funeral Home Chapel in Springtown. Funeral service was Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Springtown, with interment in the Springtown Cemetery.

"Gerry" was born Geraldine Thormaehlen to E. A. "Mutt" Thormaehlen and Thelma Thormaehlen nee Howe on Dec. 6, 1933 in Ricardo. When she was 17, she met a young man named Roy Ballew. They were married on Oct. 21, 1951, in Andrews. She shared that people told them they were too young, but she was proud to say, by the grace of God, that their marriage stayed strong. This week would mark their 72nd anniversary.

Gerry was a stay-at-home mom for years, volunteering as a Camp Fire

Girl leader, teaching Vacation Bible School, cleaning and doing anything that was needed around the First United Methodist Church in Springtown, where she was a member for more than 50 years. She also helped with the band boosters and could sew anything! Once her children were older, she returned to the workforce by working in the office of Dairyman's Feed Store in Weatherford, where she earned the nickname "Gabby" because she talked and laughed so much. She then went on to work at General Dynamics where she retired in 1990 after 13 years of service. In her spare time, Gerry enjoyed bowling, gardening, sewing, music and spending time with her family.

Gerry is remembered fondly by all for her smile and her contagious laughter. She was a caring friend to all and even spent her last days encouraging others, even while she was battling cancer. She was loved by all who met her and will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Roy E. Ballew; her parents; and brothers-in-law, Marion Ballew and Milton Bluhm.

Survivors include her son, Roy Michael Ballew of Springtown; daughter, Judi Conger and husband, Bob, of Runaway Bay; grandchildren, Dustin Smalley and wife, Ashley, of Bridgeport, Stacy Manning and husband, Blake, of Lubbock, Bobby Conger Jr. and wife, Kacie, of Terrell and Crystal Conger of Weatherford; brother, Buddy Thormaehlen and wife, Bitsy, of New Braunfels; sister, Carolyn Bluhm of Victoria; and a host of great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews who she loved dearly.

Flowers are appreciated, but donations may be made in lieu of flowers to First United Methodist Church in Springtown or your favorite church or charity.