

## **Berniece Wells Bailey | 1920-2015**

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Tags: Chico



Berniece Wells Bailey

Berniece Wells Bailey, 95, of Chico, formerly of Grapevine, died Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, in Decatur. Funeral is 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at Morris Memorial Methodist Church in Chico with the Revs. Paul Widicus and Mike Miller officiating. Burial will follow at 2 p.m. at Grapevine Cemetery. Pallbearers are Larry Mader, Terry Hand, Doug Bowyer, Embry Hines, Toby Sides, Mark Knox and Dusty Sides. Honorary pallbearers are Laura Coble, Janice Smith, Janet Terrell, Rhonda Richey, Mercy Stanfield, Cristy Self, Les Bankhead, Rebecca Blanton, Paul Reasoner, Kelli Dethloff, Shelly Prost and Denise Ellington.

Berniece was born Feb. 6, 1920, in Coppell to Jesse and Lora (Lindsay) Daniel. She married James Marvin Wells Dec. 23, 1939, and Elbert (Boose) Bailey Dec. 16, 1961. Berniece accepted Christ at an early age and served him all of her life. She was a Sunday school teacher and served as choir director for 22 years. She held several offices in the Methodist church and served as youth director in the '60s. Berniece was a member of Eastern Star and served as Worthy Matron. She was a lifetime member of Women's Society of Christian Service. Berniece was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 and Outstanding Community Service of the Chico Children's Clothing Fund 1970-2000. She served as the Chico Chamber of Commerce director 1979-1980. Berniece received the Lifetime Service Award for the Chico Chamber of Commerce in 1998, and she was a founding member of the Senior Citizens Center of Chico. Berniece was owner and vice president of First State Bank of Chico and served on the board of directors for 26 years until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, James Wells; her second husband, Elbert Bailey; son Harold Marvin Wells; sister Thelma Conine; brothers Grady, Marshall, Roy and J.B.; and granddaughter Teresa Williams. Berniece is survived by her son, Danny Wells and wife, Mononette; daughter Cyd Bailey; daughter-in-law Dorothy Wells; grandsons James Wells and wife, Amanda, and Frank Oravetz; granddaughters Lora Jones and husband, Ben, and Marla Erickson and husband, Danny; special friend and caregiver, Carandy Guinn; great-grandsons Kristopher, Eric, Justin and Donny; great-granddaughters Heather, Makenzi, Hannah, Zoe and Lindsey; five great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to Morris Memorial Methodist Church in Chico, 940-644-5186, or the Chico Senior Citizens Center, 940-644-5453.