



Dorothy L. Ernst-Maxey

February 14, 1924 - October 25, 2024

Dorothy Louise Ernst-Maxey, age 100, passed away on October 25, 2024 at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton, IN. She was born on February 14, 1924 in Fort Wayne to Aaron and Ruth (Mountz) Soellinger. She graduated from Hometown High School in 1942. On October 29, 1943 Dorothy married Richard L. Ernst of Bluffton, IN, until his passing on April 6, 1988. Later she pursued a career in nursing, graduating from LPN school in Fort Wayne in 1972. Dorothy lived in a century filled by devotion to God, her church and family.

Dorothy dedicated many years to caring for patients at Caylor-Nickel Clinic and post retirement, served on several short-term missionary trips abroad. During many of her summers, she served as a camp nurse at Lake James Christian Camp. Dorothy especially enjoyed time spent in Mexico at Casa de niños Orphanage. Dorothy was deeply involved in her church family and actively participated as a member of the First Church of Christ in Bluffton. In 2004, Dorothy remarried Pastor Bryan Maxey and they served together at the Defiance Christian Church, ministering to the senior congregation. In 2012, after Pastor Bryan retired, they moved to Fort Wayne and joined the community of Golden Years Retirement Home, where they continued their ministry and enjoyed their later years of loving companionship.

She is survived by her daughters; Judy (Philip) Gibson of Seminole, FL., Jo Ella (David) Schwartz of Syracuse, IN. and Esther "Rusty" (Dennis) Dailey of Bluffton. She also leaves behind stepsons; Robert (Jane) Maxey, John (Judy)

Maxey, David (Joyce) Maxey and Stephen Maxey, all of Ohio. Dorothy was a loving grandmother to seven grandchildren; Kay (Kent) Sanxter, Matthew (Sarah) Schwartz, William Schwartz, Rebecca Schwartz, Kimberly (Matthew) Todd, Tisha (Matthew) Brady and Robin (Stan) Foy, and 24 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great grandchildren who will cherish her memory. Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Aaron and Ruth Soellinger, her four siblings, Ruth (Delmar) Richardson, Jane (Don) Cass, Margaret Border and Carl Soellinger, her first husband, Richard Ernst and her second husband, Pastor Bryan Maxey, step-daughter-in-law Deborah Maxey, two grandsons, James Clark and Richard Gibson.

A service to honor Dorothy's life will be held on November 1, 2024 at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Pastor John Love officiating. Visitation will be from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M., with service at noon, followed by burial at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lake James Christian Camp, Angola, IN or to Christian Care Retirement Community.

Our family wishes to thank all of the staff at Christian Care for the loving care they provided to our mother.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Funeral Service

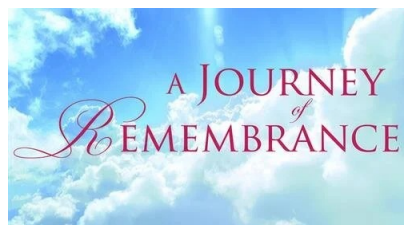
NOV 1. 12:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dorothy L. Ernst-Maxey*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - November 01, 2024 at 02:11 PM

CB

“ *Dear Rusty and family, I want you to know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your Mom lived such an exciting and long life. You never knew what to expect! I loved the stories you told about her. May she RIP. My Sincere Sympathy. Connie Wolfcale Bade*

Connie Wolfcale Bade - November 01, 2024 at 10:42 AM

RM

“ *Gary fondly remembers Dorothy on their mission trip to Casa De Ninos. Dorothy got up early every morning to wash clothes and hang them on the lines stretched across the upstairs patio. She encouraged the kids on the mission trip to get up early and read their Bibles every day. To increase their motivation, she told them, "If you want to see me with my teeth out, you'll have to get up early and catch me doing laundry!" I remember how much Dorothy loved the book of John. She would say it had most of what we needed to know as Christians. She was a great role model for us all. You were blessed to have a wonderful mother!*

Rhonda Lynn McFarren - November 01, 2024 at 08:14 AM

SG

“ Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with the entire Dorothy Maxey family, especially the Rusty and Denny Dailey family. May God wrap His comforting arms around you and give you peace in the coming days. In Prayer and deepest sympathy, Stan and Cindy Geisel



Stan and Cindy Geisel - October 31, 2024 at 12:31 PM



“ 130 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - October 31, 2024 at 10:49 AM

DP

“ What a beautiful person Dorothy was! We knew her from the Defiance church. We send our sympathy.

Dennis and Cathy Price

Dennis and Cathy Price - October 30, 2024 at 09:52 AM

CF

“ *Rusty and Family,
So sorry to hear of your Mother’s passing. My heart goes out to you.
May you treasure your many loving memories of her always. God
bless you and comfort you now and in the days ahead. 🙏 Carol
(Reusser) Foltz*

Carol (Reusser) Foltz - October 29, 2024 at 09:53 PM

SB

“ *Accept my sympathy in Dorothy’s passing.
We worked together at CNC in the 1980’s.
She was a devoted, caring nurse.*



Sharon Barger - October 29, 2024 at 12:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Dorothy L. Ernst-Maxey.*



October 28, 2024 at 04:31 PM