



Obituary for Betty Francisco

4/26/1918 - 9/19/2011

Our wonderful mother and grandmother, Betty Francisco, 93, entered the Lord's eternal celebration shortly after midnight from Mid-Michigan Stratford Village on Sept. 19, 2011. We all have an unusual joy knowing that she is delighted with her new home, and are overwhelmed with thanks for her love, ardent prayers, and deep commitment to her family and our well being. Betty was born in Mulliken, on April 26, 1918, to the late Thurman and Ezoa (Potter) Clay six months before Thurman served as an army officer in France during World War I. Her happy childhood as a school superintendent's daughter and eldest of four led her to earn a teaching degree at Eastern Michigan University. She taught for one year in St. Petersburg until marrying Donald M. Francisco on June 12, 1941. After the war, the couple moved to Midland where she supported Donald who established the major product sales accounts for Dow Corning Corp., a new company. For over 60 years she was very active at First Baptist Church, serving in many roles for the betterment of all. She prayed daily for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, delighting to see them thrive. During a rewarding 33-year retirement, Don and Betty travelled all over the world, also spending winters in Sun City, Fla., and summers at her beloved Bay View, Mich. The couple celebrated 70 years of marriage in June of 2011. Betty is survived by her husband, Donald; daughter, Mary Louise (Dave) Doidge of Hendersonville, N.C.; sons, Donald (Sue) Francisco of Wayland, Rev. Thurman (Anne) Francisco of Atwater, Calif., Randy (Kim) Francisco of Midland, and Mark (Myrthann) Francisco of Midland; 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; sister, Jeannette (Max) Collins of Saline; and brother, Robert (Terri) Clay of Connecticut. Betty was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, Katy Lou and Milton Hartman; and grandson, Daniel Doidge. A celebration of her life will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept 22, 2011, at First Baptist Church, with The Rev. John Dick officiating. The family will receive friends at Smith-Miner Funeral Home, 2700 W. Wackerly, on Wednesday, from 4-7 p.m., and on Thursday at the church from 12 p.m. until the time of the service.

Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider First Baptist Church, or the Daniel W. Doidge memorial fund.

Online condolences can be given at smithminer.com.

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