



## Obituary for Ruth B. Thomas

11/20/1925 - 5/8/2013

RUTH BUTTERFIELD THOMAS, died on Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Born Nov. 20, 1925, in Evansville, Ind. where she grew up and attended Bosse High School. In 1943, she went to DePauw University and then Purdue University graduating with a BS in 1947. After working at Family & Children's Service in Evansville, she went to the New York School of Social Work for graduate studies. During the summer of 1950, the Butterfield family toured through Europe for several months. Upon her return, she married Alton W. Thomas from Farmville, N.C. They were married for almost 62 years until his death in 2012. As Al worked his way up in the Ferro Corporation and then to Smith & Butterfield, they lived in Canton, Ohio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Evansville, Ind., and then finally Miami, Fla. where Al had a photo finishing plant. Later in life, they traversed the country living in Dallas, Texas, Chattanooga, Tenn, and finally Clearwater, Fla. During these years, Ruth took care of the family raising four children and many dogs. Summers were spent in her childhood vacation spot of Bay View, Mich. They retired to Melbourne, Fla. and then Fort Wayne. The only 80 year olds to move 'FROM' Florida to Indiana instead of the reverse... Bay View continued to be the summer vacation spot. Ruth is survived by four children, Bill, Mary, Julie and Sarah; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother, Bill Butterfield of Evansville; and a sister, Mary Butterfield of Pompano Beach, Fla. She will be cremated and her ashes will be placed in the Memorial Garden, Bay View next to her husband, Alton. "For as long as we can remember, one of the dogs wrote the Christmas letter for her the latest, Biscuit bids farewell to a wonderful grandmother, mother, sister and friend to all of us." In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bay View Association - Boys and Girls Club, Box 583, Petoskey, MI 49770 or Center for Eye Research & Education, 50 Staniford St., 6th Floor, Boston, MA, 02114 to further macular degeneration research.

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