



Dorothy Jean Messersmith

Dorothy Jean Messersmith, 82, died peacefully at her home in Lubbock on Aug.11, 2007, surrounded by family, love and memories.

She was born and raised in Fort Worth and graduated from Poly High School. During the Second World War, she worked at the Fort Worth Tribune. She married her childhood playmate and sweetheart Bobby Messersmith in 1946. Upon his graduation from Texas Tech with a degree in architecture, they made a permanent home in Lubbock. She loved West Texas with a fierce and outspoken allegiance, and never tired of singing its praises to visitors.

Dorothy loved life and lived it in such a way as to leave memorable impressions with whomever she met. She loved people, and many a casual acquaintance grew into a special friend. Many of her acquaintances-turned-friends were fishermen and fisherwomen, as her lifelong recreation of choice was to "wet a line" and wait patiently for the thrill of a bite.

She was a natural and accomplished artist, but chose to lavish those talents on her family, which she considered her masterpiece. She instilled in each of her children an abiding love for beauty, a devoted sense of loyalty and a pure appreciation of panhandle sunsets. She loved gardening, hummingbirds and the color blue.

Dorothy's love of architecture, architects and Texas Tech was exemplified by the establishment in 2003, of the Robert and Dorothy Messersmith Scholarship in Architecture, for deserving students in the Texas Tech

College of Architecture. She reveled in meeting the recipients and encouraging them in their budding careers.

She is survived by her husband, Robert (Bob) Messersmith, Sr. of Lubbock; son, David Messersmith and wife Leanne of Dallas; daughter, Carol Livingston and husband Bob of Lubbock; son, Gary Messersmith and wife Kelly of Shallowater; son, Robert, Jr. of Austin; sister, Carol Thornton and husband Bob of Weatherford; niece, Jamie Thornton of Weatherford; aunt, Dorothy Hufford of Houston; and grandchildren, Patrick Messersmith and Kristi Le of Abilene, Ashley Messersmith, Andrew Livingston, Megan Messersmith, and Chase Messersmith of Lubbock.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be directed to Hospice of Lubbock or to the Texas Tech Foundation: Robert and Dorothy Messersmith Scholarship in Architecture.

Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007, at the Hodges Chapel at First Christian Church, with Dr. Michael Passmore and Rev. Elizabeth Abraham officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home. Family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday, Aug. 13, 2007 from 6 to 8 p.m.