



THELMA IRENE (GRIFFIS) MERKL

November 29, 1924 - November 18, 2014

Thelma Irene (Griffis) Merkl. On November 18, 2014, Thelma (Toots) departed from us to be with the Lord. She was born on November 29, 1924 in Pratt City, Alabama (Jefferson, County), born to John Wells and Clara Cork Griffis. She was the seventh child of her family. Her surviving sibling is Martha Perkins (Richard) of Birmingham, Alabama. Toots grew up in a close knit community on the western side of Birmingham where many of family men worked at TCI. In 1944, Toots married the love of her life, Clarence (Buddy) Merkl loving each other for over 70 years and counting; together they had 4 children: Terry Irene Stewart (Jerry); John Timothy (Jenny); David Harrell (Wendy); and Daniel Lee (Kay); all who survive her. She has been blessed with 13 surviving grandchildren: Jonathan Jerry Stewart (Lisa); Mandy Lee Coolidge (Chris), Timothy Ryan Merkl (Kathy), Jennifer Lorie McBride (Matt); John Wesley Merkl (Abby); Gregory David Merkl; Erica Lynn Reed (Trent); Katie Elizabeth Merkl; Ron, Ryan and Ross Jewel; Lauren Kay (Keith) and Daniel Lee Merkl Jr. Toots and Buddy also have many surviving great grandchildren: Haley and Noah Stewart, Brodie, Wyatt and Ella Coolidge; Jack, Carolyn Gray, Connor, Emelia, and Sarah Catherine Merkl; Colin, Claire and Vivian McBride; Jacob and Zoey Merkl; Addison, Hunter and Hudson Reed. Tootsie has many nieces, nephews, cousins and innumerable friends that are missing her presence already. Toots loved people and everyone who knows her, loves her. She was a very loving mother, a great Christian example and a faithful follower and servant of the Lord through her membership, friendship, and

outreach leadership in the Student Ministry at Central Park Baptist Church, and most recently First Baptist Church Pleasant Grove, where she is survived by a host of friends and spiritual family members. The visitation will be Friday, November 21, 2014, from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM at Peoples Chapel Funeral Home, Hueytown, AL. The funeral service will be at 2:00 PM at the Funeral Home, with Dr. Davin Watkins officiating. Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the First Baptist Church Pleasant Grove.