



Dorothy Dodson Prunty

May 30, 1920 - August 4, 2018

Dorothy Dodson Prunty, 98, a teacher, a lifelong advocate for civil rights and women's equality and a 67-year resident of Jacksboro, Texas, died peacefully in Plano, Texas, of multiple causes. Her daughter, Gail, was with her.

Born in Gainesville, Texas, on May 30, 1920, Dorothy was the only child of Hazel and Warner Dodson. Her mother, Hazel Holt Dodson, was one of five children born on the family cotton farm near Slidell, Texas. Her father's father was the local Presbyterian minister.

Dorothy's parents moved to Boulder, Colorado, when she was a young child after her father found work with the Rocky Mountain News. Later they moved to Redwood City, California, where he worked for Hurst newspapers. She attended Mill Valley Middle School and Mount Tamalpais High School. When her family returned to Texas, she graduated from Decatur High School.

Growing up in the Great Depression, she was moved by the plight of the unemployed and destitute that came to the family's backdoor asking for food. She said her mother never turned any one away without something to eat. While attending integrated schools in the West, she became an advocate for civil rights and a fierce critic of segregation and racial prejudice.

Dorothy began her college career at Decatur Baptist College and finished at

North Texas State University in 1940. Her first teaching job was in Lawton, Oklahoma. With World War II looming, she joined the civilian workforce at a military base, and during the war years, she worked for the U.S. government in Panama.

When the war ended, she worked for the Red Cross in Tyler. It was here that she met Luther G. Prunty who was recuperating in a military hospital. He was a member of the "Lost Battalion," the group of men who were taken prisoner by the Japanese in Java weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This group worked as slave labor to build the "Death Railway" through Burma and Thailand.

Dorothy and Luther met when a buddy asked to borrow Luther's car to take Dorothy on a date. Luther was so smitten that when he was released from the hospital, he called and asked her to have dinner with him. She told him she couldn't because she was playing bridge with her girlfriends. Subsequent requests were more successful and the two were married at the Fort Worth Methodist Church on June 1, 1947.

Following a honeymoon in Red River, New Mexico, the couple settled in their home on West Archer Street in Jacksboro, where they lived for the next 67 years. Dorothy joined The First Methodist Church and was a devoted member for the rest of her life. They had two daughters, Gail and Marsha.

Dorothy returned to work as a teacher, first in kindergarten and later 4th grade where she taught generations of the town's nine and ten-year-olds. When children did not have enough money for workbooks or lunch money, she quietly paid for them herself. She used art to supplement teaching and every student handmade at least one paper mache puppet representing an historical or storybook character. In 1960, she received a master's degree from North Texas State University.

Always active in the community, Dorothy served as a Girl Scout leader, a Sunday school teacher, and one of the original founders of The Clothes Closet, a thrift store which helped individuals and families in need. She also helped to organize the Jacksboro chapter of the Classroom Teacher's Association and served on the Gladys Johnson Ritchie Library Board.

In the summers, at her insistence, the family took "educational" camping trips to the national parks, including Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Grand Tetons, the Rocky Mountains, Mesa Verde and the Grand Canyon, among many.

In her early 50s, she began a freelance writing career and published dozens of magazine articles in state and national publications. With Luther, she hosted Carina Nielson, an exchange student from Sweden, whom she wrote about in an article called "Here Came Carina," and whom she corresponded with as long as she was able.

After her daughters left to attend college, Dorothy travelled the world, and with Luther, she visited Australia and New Zealand. Together they returned to Thailand and Burma where he had been a prisoner of war, culminating in an emotional visit to the bridge over the River Kwai that he helped to build. They also visited the Lost Battalion memorial at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii.

Dorothy was an affectionate and devoted wife for 67 years and a loving and supportive mother, encouraging her children to read from an early age, and driving them to out-of-town libraries when the local library offerings were exhausted. To her own mother, she was dutiful and loving, visiting her weekly in Weatherford as long as her mother lived.

A lifelong Democrat, Dorothy was a great admirer of Franklin and Eleanor

Roosevelt, and a strong supporter of women's rights. She was disappointed that she did not live to see a female president elected.

Dorothy enjoyed playing bridge and was a master Scrabble player who was always ready for a game with her children and later, her grandchildren. She embraced technology and was an early adopter of the home computer, which allowed her to play bridge and scrabble with people from all over the world and to use email and Skype to communicate with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other family and friends.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law Gail and Mike Bialas and Marsha and David Canright; her granddaughter Liz and husband Brian Hull; and Lindsay Canright and Nathan Martens. She is also survived by her three great-grandchildren, Kaden, Evan and Breagan Hull, and many much-adored nieces, nephews and their children. The surviving widows of the Lost Battalion and members of the Second Generation were among her most faithful friends; she considered them to be part of her family.

Donations in lieu of flowers are suggested to The First United Methodist Church, 406 North Main Street, Jacksboro, 76458; Concerned Citizens, 400 E Pine St, Jacksboro, 76458; the Gladys Johnson Ritchie Library, 626 W College, Jacksboro, 76458; or the Cundiff Cemetery Association, 501 DeGress Road, Jacksboro, 76458-3024.

Cemetery Details

Cundiff Cemetery

3600 FM 1810
Jacksboro, TX 76458

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **9**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Coker Funeral Home
152 State Hwy 148
Jacksboro, TX 76458
(940) 567-3778
info@cokerfuneral.com

Church Service

AUG **10**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
406 North Main Street
Jacksboro, TX 76458

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy Dodson Prunty*

October 09, 2023 at 04:16 AM



“ *Dorothy Dodson Prunty*

January 28, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ *What a wonderful woman Ms. Prunty was. Her and her husband Luther were kind and loving people! I am sad to hear of her passing, but know she is rejoicing again with Luther in the hands of the Lord now. I was blessed to know her and Luther. Very kind and giving, will always remember them fondly!*



Debbye Berry - February 08, 2019 at 02:46 AM



“ *Brenda White lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Brenda White - August 18, 2018 at 11:59 PM

DK

“ *Debbie King lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Debbie King - August 09, 2018 at 09:43 PM

ND

“ *Nolan And Lee Dunlap lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Nolan and Lee Dunlap - August 08, 2018 at 08:03 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dorothy Dodson Prunty.*



August 07, 2018 at 09:57 PM

MM

“ *Mary Massengale lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Mary Massengale - August 07, 2018 at 05:07 PM

NG

“ *Neoma Gwaltney lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Neoma Gwaltney - August 07, 2018 at 05:07 PM

LM

“ *Loretta Martinez lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Loretta Martinez - August 07, 2018 at 02:14 PM

SM

“ *Scott And Michele Martin lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Scott and Michele Martin - August 07, 2018 at 02:08 PM

DH

“ *David And Carole Hobdy lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



David And Carole Hobdy - August 07, 2018 at 02:02 PM

JW

“ *James W Whitsitt lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



James W Whitsitt - August 07, 2018 at 10:53 AM

JW

A wonderful lady inside and out. It was always a pleasure to visit with Dorothy and Luther.

James W Whitsitt - August 07, 2018 at 10:56 AM

CS

“ *Such wonderful teacher, who taught so many children who grew up to admire her. My prayers are with the family. RIP sweet lady. Carolyn and Ricky Smith*



Carolyn Rick Smith - August 07, 2018 at 10:42 AM

CN

“ *Carolyn Nichols lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Carolyn Nichols - August 06, 2018 at 11:41 PM

AD

“ Aunt Dorothy some of the earliest memories from my childhood were of you. You will be greatly missed by those who are left without your earthly presence. I know that Uncle Luther is rejoicing in Heaven that the two of you have been reunited for eternity. With much love, Allyson



Allyson Young Dunagan - August 06, 2018 at 11:35 PM

GK

“ Gayla Kinder lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Gayla Kinder - August 06, 2018 at 07:27 PM

PH

“ Paula Conner Hall lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Paula Conner Hall - August 06, 2018 at 05:42 PM

GL

“ Gevern&Ronda Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Gevern&Ronda Lewis - August 06, 2018 at 05:32 PM

TM

“ *Tim And Cathy McAnear lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Tim and Cathy McAnear - August 06, 2018 at 05:30 PM

SH

“ *Dianne and Sheila both had Mrs. Prunty for our 4th grade teacher and she was tops! What a legacy she left for her girls and for all of us. Gail and Marsha, you were so blessed to have both your parents for so long. They were a blessing to so many of us. Prayers are with you and your families.*
The Starr Family

Sheila Starr Harrison - August 06, 2018 at 04:35 PM

RC

“ *Rick Mitzi Campsey lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Rick Mitzi Campsey - August 06, 2018 at 04:34 PM

LO

“ *Louida Bunch Owen lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Louida Bunch Owen - August 06, 2018 at 03:37 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Dorothy Prunty



Coker Funeral Home - August 06, 2018 at 01:38 PM

RR

“ May God's Grace and Mercy continue to surround Mrs. Prunty! My heartfelt condolences to the family!



Regina Ray - August 06, 2018 at 01:06 PM

JH

“ Rest in Peace-- Dorothy-- from your relatives in the Helm family.

Jon helm - August 06, 2018 at 01:01 PM

LH

“ Leslie Holman lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Leslie Holman - August 06, 2018 at 12:44 PM

RB

“ Robert Black lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Robert Black - August 06, 2018 at 12:37 PM

RL

“ Rusty&Kathy Lowrance lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Rusty&Kathy Lowrance - August 06, 2018 at 12:26 PM

RH

“ Four generations of my family knew and loved Dorothy and Luther. May they rest in peace.

Rhonda Harris - August 06, 2018 at 11:20 AM

 LoriAnn Hale

“ May you rest in peace and thank you for your friendship beyond 4th grade..



LoriAnn Hale - August 06, 2018 at 11:06 AM

MC

“ *Martha Craft Clement lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Martha Craft Clement - August 06, 2018 at 11:05 AM

KF

“ *Kevin Florance lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Kevin Florance - August 06, 2018 at 10:32 AM

DS

“ *Deborah Hale Strain lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Deborah Hale Strain - August 06, 2018 at 10:22 AM

SF

“ *Steve & Laverne Bialas, Mary Pfeffer & Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dorothy Dodson Prunty.*



Steve & Laverne Bialas, Mary Pfeffer & Family - August 06, 2018 at 09:54 AM

BH

“ *The world will miss her!*



Bill Hale - August 06, 2018 at 08:04 AM



“ *Donna Hensley lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Donna Hensley - August 06, 2018 at 07:58 AM

RM

“ *Raymond and Peggy Matlock lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty.*



Raymond Matlock - August 06, 2018 at 07:35 AM

GF

“ *George Fulbright lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



George Fulbright - August 06, 2018 at 07:29 AM

LW

“ *Loved Mrs. Prunty! She will greatly be missed.*

Lilly May West - August 06, 2018 at 06:26 AM

LC

“ *I have found memories of Ms. Prunty as one of my teachers, she always want you to do your best, not because she was strict, but because she cared about her students. She was a very caring lady.*



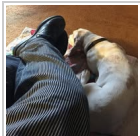
Lisa Ross Curd - August 06, 2018 at 04:06 AM

SH

“ *Sheree Hicks lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Sheree Hicks - August 06, 2018 at 03:46 AM



“ *Susan Rhodes lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Susan Rhodes - August 06, 2018 at 12:37 AM

MC

“ Margaret Hendricks Collins lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Margaret Hendricks Collins - August 06, 2018 at 12:10 AM

DL

“ Dale & Carol Leach lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Dale & Carol Leach - August 05, 2018 at 11:43 PM

CC

“ Carolyn Corder lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Carolyn Corder - August 05, 2018 at 11:38 PM

BH

“ Bruce, Theresa & Blake Hesteande lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Bruce, Theresa & Blake Hesteande - August 05, 2018 at 09:54 PM

GW

“ Gail And Shirley Weldon lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Gail and Shirley Weldon - August 05, 2018 at 09:53 PM

YW

“ Ylonda Wells lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Ylonda Wells - August 05, 2018 at 08:37 PM

LM

“ Leo & Carla Marley lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Leo & Carla Marley - August 05, 2018 at 07:54 PM

MM

“ Marianne Myers lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty



Marianne Myers - August 05, 2018 at 06:05 PM

MM

Gail & family your mother will be greatly missed. I will always remember her kindness and caring nature. God Bless each of you in the coming days. Marianne Myers

Marianne Myers - August 05, 2018 at 06:11 PM

JW

“ *Judy Jackson Wolfe lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



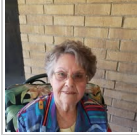
Judy Jackson Wolfe - August 05, 2018 at 05:46 PM

DM

“ *Gail, Marsha & families,
I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was such a sweet & wonderful person. I had her as a teacher in the 4th grade at Jacksboro Elem. I loved learning how to do all those art projects she had us do. It brought out the creativity in me. She was 1 of my favorite teachers. We stayed in contact with each other through the years & I became her seamstress. I always enjoyed our visits & the stories that she & Luther had to tell. She will be truly missed by all who loved & knew her.
Darlene Maxwell*



Darlene (Long) Maxwell - August 05, 2018 at 05:12 PM



“ *Melba Mower lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*

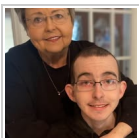


Melba Mower - August 05, 2018 at 04:42 PM



“ *I have so many wonderful memories of Mrs. Prunty. I and many of my friends were fortunate enough to have her as our Brownie Scout leader. Oh what wonderful adventures we had! We all learned so much from her. I visited Mr & Mrs. Prunty's home many times for birthday parties, play time, and sleep overs. I was always excited when I visited Gail at her parents home. Dorothy was constantly teaching and exploring her whole life. She will be missed by so many. God Bless her and her lovely family.*
Maria Glezer

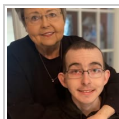
Maria Glezer - August 05, 2018 at 04:18 PM



“ *Charlene McCaghren lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*

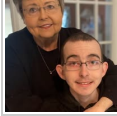


Charlene McCaghren - August 05, 2018 at 04:10 PM



My favorite teacher! You loved and you will always be loved.

Charlene McCaghren - August 05, 2018 at 04:12 PM



My favorite teacher! You loved and will always be loved.

Charlene McCaghren - August 05, 2018 at 04:15 PM

KK

“ *Karen Kinsey lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Karen Kinsey - August 05, 2018 at 03:36 PM

KL

“ *Karen Catlin Laliberte lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Karen Catlin Laliberte - August 05, 2018 at 03:18 PM

KL

Wonderful lady! Had many wonderful times with the family as a youngster.

Karen Catlin Laliberte - August 05, 2018 at 03:23 PM

JL

“ We are sorry to hear of Dorothy's passing, but, oh my goodness, what a legacy she leaves with her family and all who knew her! She and Luther were truly members of The Greatest Generation and we always enjoyed and were blessed to get to visit with them. We're also very glad our son Landon was able to be around them in recent years as he was growing up. He loved to hear their stories :)



Praying for comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Greg, Jenilynn, and Landon Lewis

Jenilynn Lewis - August 05, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ *Dinah Hall lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Dinah Hall - August 05, 2018 at 01:29 PM

BJ

“ *I was in her First Kindergarten class held in a special room off their garage there in Jacksboro. She has long been my favorite teacher. A very Special Lady she was! I'll always be thankful for her.*

barbara jackson - August 05, 2018 at 01:15 PM

RC

“ *Rita And Larry Culwell lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Rita and Larry Culwell - August 05, 2018 at 12:46 PM

PJ

“ *Preston Jones lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Preston Jones - August 05, 2018 at 11:58 AM

PJ

I enjoyed working my couple of years in her classroom as a student in FTA.

Preston Jones - August 05, 2018 at 12:02 PM

PH

“ *Paula Ross Harley lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Dodson Prunty*



Paula Ross Harley - August 05, 2018 at 11:51 AM