



## Monnie Lewis Thornberry

February 27, 1921 - May 17, 2016

### A Tribute to a Godly Woman

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed...”

Monnie Lewis Thornberry, age 95, went home to be with her Lord Tuesday May 17, 2016. Monnie was born on February 27, 1921, at Rocky Branch Ky, a daughter of the late Abijah (Bigie) and Verlina Fraley Lewis.

As a young girl, Monnie gave her heart to the Lord and throughout her life she maintained a sweet, humble demeanor, and displayed a quiet strength she found in the Lord; this won the hearts of many, who even now are being changed by her witness of a constant nurturing love, of her faith, and of a hope she found only in Christ.

Monnie married her sweetheart, the love of her life, George Thornberry on December 15, 1938, and to this union, they were blessed with 10 children. George was unexpectedly called to his eternal home after 21 years of marriage on February 3, 1959, a little more than a month before their last child was born. How does one describe the life of this Godly woman who after the death of her beloved George, became the head of her household, both mother and father, and spiritual leader? A passage in Proverbs 31:10-31 paints an appropriate picture of this precious lady, as her life she lived out, was a true reflection of a virtuous woman:

“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

Monnie's home was a place for family to gather each Sunday, a place of refuge, a place where she taught her children and grandchildren what love was all about. A woman of faith, and the heart of the Thornberry family,

Monnie shaped the spirituality of her family by her Christian example. While not wealthy by social standards, she was rich beyond measure with a love for her Lord, with the love of her family, and with a heart to serve others.

Her signature gift of hospitality will never be forgotten. Possessing a true servant's heart, Monnie faithfully cared for her family and anyone else that walked through the door of her home. She also found joy in providing a delicious meal for all who entered. Her words "let me fix you something to eat," will always ring in the ears of those who were blessed to sit around her table.

Monnie became a member of the Rocky Branch Enterprise Baptist in 1946 and attended various churches in the community until her health made it difficult to go. She loved to praise the Lord through song or while hearing good gospel music. She was blessed with a talent to write songs and poems about her Lord. She enjoyed journaling, reading scripture, and praying. She also enjoyed tending her flowers and garden as well.

Monnie was preceded in death by her husband George Thornberry; two daughters Gladys Whitley and Doris Smith; one son Wayne Thornberry; three grandchildren Johnny Ray Whitley, Bobby Barker, and Joshua Thornberry; two great-grandchildren Gage Thornberry and Wyatt Thornberry; five sisters Alice Leadingham, Lizzie Boggs, Edna Boggs, May Gillum, Lena Bell Thornberry; and two brothers Noah Lewis and Emerson Lewis.

She is survived by three daughters Lina Faye (Frank) Newell of Westfield Center Ohio, Junice (Jerry) Barker of Burke Ky, and Georgie (Donnie) Ison of Sandy Hook Ky; four sons Amos (Geraldine) Thornberry of Ashland Ky, George Thornberry of Sandy Hook Ky, Jimmy (Brenda) Thornberry of Sandy Hook Ky; and Dean (Ann) Thornberry of Sandy Hook Ky.

She is survived by 28 grandchildren, Teresa (Ernie) DeBord, Shirley (Jason) Prater, Regina Eastridge, Veronica Lewis, Crystal Schmerich, Jason Newell, Jarrod Newell, Sandra (Paul) Thornsberry, Jackie (Kim) Whitley, Bill (Johnna) Whitley, Roberta (Rodney) Gilliam, Jerry C. Barker Jr, Angie (Ronnie) Adkins, Milford (Jenny) Thornberry, Dr. Kim (Jeff) Clevenger, Chris (Brittany) Thornberry, Kayla (Ben) Mcgranahan, Brad Thornberry, Felicia Thornberry, Jonathan Thornberry, Terence (Sarah) Thornberry, Andrea (Jamie) Lewis, Ryan (Rebecca) Ison, Bryant (Amber) Ison, Travis Ison; 40 Great-grandchildren, Jessica Dimaggio, Noah Prater, Tessa Prater, Brian Eastridge, Candace Hyer, Alicia Ilius, Zachary Thornsberry, Natasha Thornsberry, Samantha Whitley, Jackie Whitley, Emily Whitley, Jacob Whitley, Jace Whitley, Alex Whitley, Caden Whitley, Rebecca Lyon, Dwayne Gilliam, Jerry Barker, Brittany Barker, Jim Barker, Megan Estep, Lexie Adkins, Trace Thornberry, Trapper Thornberry, Taylor Thornberry, Brayden Clevenger, Jackson Thornberry, Addison McGranahan, Kaleigh Thornberry, Sophia Thornberry, Gunner Thornberry, Jaleigh Lewis, Olivia Litton, Bella Lewis, Page Ison, Cole Ison, Cainan Ison, Lynlee Ison; 11 great-great grandchildren, Olivia Ann Eastridge, Danika Mumaw, Hayvyn Hyer, Lexie Pauley, Montana Pauley, Rylie Pauley, Grace Pauley, Lincoln Childers, Wade Rowe, Bella Gilliam, Katie Gilliam; one daughter-in-law, Christine Thornberry; and several brother & sister-in-laws, a host of nieces and nephews, and friends that will mourn her passing.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 21, 2016, at Waddell and Whitt Funeral Home in Sandy Hook, Kentucky, with Brother Ennis Lewis Jr. officiating. Burial will follow in the Elliott County Memory Gardens in Elliott County, Kentucky.

Friends may visit from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, May 20, 2016, at Waddell & Whitt Funeral Home, North Highway 32 & 7, Sandy Hook, Kentucky 41171.

### Pallbearers

Milford Thornberry, Chris Thornberry, Jonathan Thornberry, Terence Thornberry, Ryan Ison, Bryant Ison, and Travis Ison

### Honorary Pallbearers

Jack Whitley, Bill Whitley, Jerry C. Barker Jr, Brad Thornberry, Jason Newell, Jarrod Newell, Frank Newell, Donnie Ison, Jerry Barker, Ed Lewis, Clyde Lewis, Junior Lewis

# Cemetery Details

## Elliott County Memory Gardens

Elliott Co, KY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 20.** 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PT)

Whitt & Sons Funeral Home  
1260 North Ky 7  
Post Office Box 704  
Sandy Hook, KY 41171  
(606) 738-9600  
<https://www.whittandsonsfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

**MAY 21.** 1:00 PM (PT)

Whitt & Sons Funeral Home  
1260 North Ky 7  
Post Office Box 704  
Sandy Hook, KY 41171  
(606) 738-9600  
<https://www.whittandsonsfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ *David & Vickie Fox lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**David & Vickie Fox** - May 22, 2016 at 10:42 AM

SH

“ *Sandra Hall lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**sandra hall** - May 21, 2016 at 02:18 PM

JT

“ *Jim and Shelba Thornberry purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Monnie Lewis Thornberry.*



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**Jim and Shelba Thornberry** - May 20, 2016 at 07:59 PM

DW

“ *Donnie And Kimberly Whitt lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Donnie and Kimberly Whitt** - May 20, 2016 at 07:54 PM

LM

“ *Laura Prewitt Manuel lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Laura Prewitt Manuel** - May 20, 2016 at 07:21 PM

DL

“ *Praying the LORD comforts & uplifts the family. Monnie was a sweet and godly woman, loved her praising the LORD in church! Dwayne & Cindi Laney and girls.*



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**Dwayne L. Laney** - May 20, 2016 at 04:42 PM

PF

“ *Pamela Conn/ Noah Lewis Family lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**pamela conn/ noah lewis family** - May 20, 2016 at 02:40 PM

FJ

“ *Faye Jarrells lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Faye Jarrells** - May 20, 2016 at 09:48 AM

RG

“ What can one say that was not said by the example that Mamaw lived before us? Which memory would be the best one to share? She always had the right words we needed to hear and they were chosen carefully and centered around the scriptures. I never forgot her birthday after my daughter Rebecca was born for she was born on Mamaw's 60th. She was thrilled to have a great granddaughter born on her birthday! One of the most precious memories to me was when Mamaw came to Lexington to visit my brother Bobby, who has since passed away. Bobby had been in the hospital for several weeks and was still in ICU at the time but was just beginning to sit up after weeks of being on a ventilator. I went in with Mamaw to see him and she was so broken hearted to see him in his condition. She turned to me and took Bobby by the hand and said let's pray...what a prayer it was and how precious. Whenever she could visit Bobby after he came home she would always say keep praying! Which he did. Their battles are over and I know that if you are looking for someone in whose steps to follow you would not be amiss by following Mamaw's footsteps for she followed the footsteps of Christ.

*Roberta Gilliam*

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**Roberta Gilliam** - May 20, 2016 at 07:20 AM

RH

*Roberta, I love this, I want you to know, sometimes when you get happy at church I think of Aunt Monnie because you sound like her praising the Lord. I know you are following her footsteps and I'm so glad for that. Love you and all of Aunt Monnie's family.*

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**Rhonda** - May 20, 2016 at 04:29 PM

JT

“ Beautiful picture of a godly woman! So thankful she is now at peace with our Lord and reunited with loved ones gone on before (including my mom, her sister, Edna Boggs). Much love to all the family. Judy Boggs Tabor

Judy Boggs Tabor - May 20, 2016 at 05:28 AM

RF

“ Regina Eastridge and Family purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Monnie Lewis Thornberry.



Regina Eastridge and Family - May 20, 2016 at 02:20 AM

Ella Ison

“ I remember this sweet lady so well from attending church at Rocky Branch while growing up & later on also. During preaching or singing service, or both, we would hear her sweet voice begin to rise in praise to the Lord. The Lord seemed to be just a little more close to us when she would begin to praise Him. It was so coming from her heart and it always touched ours! If I'm remembering correctly, she used to sing a song with the words "someday I shall stand on the top of Mt. Zion and I'll get to look into Canaan's fair land....." Her face, while singing, would show the joy she was anticipating when she was finally there with her Savior and long awaited reunion with her precious George. She is now there, dear family, and she will be waiting there, watching for all her children to come home.....

Love and Prayers.....Mavis Justice Ison

Ella Ison - May 20, 2016 at 01:00 AM

SK

“ Sue Newell Keeton lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry



Sue Newell Keeton - May 19, 2016 at 09:22 PM

CH

“ Crystal Sloan Howard lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry



Crystal Sloan Howard - May 19, 2016 at 08:42 PM

GF

“ Gary & Helen B. Fannin sent a virtual gift in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry



Gary & Helen B. Fannin - May 19, 2016 at 08:22 PM

JF

“ Jimmy & Kathy Adkins & Family lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry



Jimmy & Kathy Adkins & Family - May 19, 2016 at 08:17 PM

KA

*Monnie was a wonderful, humble, kind-hearted, God fearing woman and in all the years that I've known her I never found her to be any other way. She was a jewel on this earth.*

Kathy Adkins - May 19, 2016 at 08:31 PM

DF

*“ I don't know where to start... What a woman of faith,courage,love,discipleship,this she was always thought of others first. What a radiant light she was as a Christian she wore s halo around her head and everyone knew what she stood for. Wonderful neighbor, the children was thankful to call her their mother. Monnie you will be sadly missed by many.You are singing a song the Angels cannot sing.....I'm redeemed by the blood of the lamb.....my mansion is all ready to move in....Praise his name forever!!!*

Debbie Fields - May 19, 2016 at 08:02 PM

TF

*“ The Leadingham Family , Alice's Family lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



The Leadingham Family , Alice's family - May 19, 2016 at 07:47 PM

JL

*“ J.D. And Doris Lewis lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



J.D. and Doris Lewis - May 19, 2016 at 07:42 PM

RH

“ *Regena Lewis Hudson lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Regena Lewis Hudson** - May 19, 2016 at 06:52 PM

RH

“ *When I was a kid, I can remembering Daddy and Mommy (Ennis and Bertha Lewis) would eat there occasionally, if she knew we were coming, she always had deviled eggs, she knew how much I loved her deviled eggs. She was a wonderful woman.*

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**Regena Lewis Hudson** - May 19, 2016 at 06:50 PM

SP

“ *Susan Preston lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Susan Preston** - May 19, 2016 at 06:35 PM

LL

“ *Lawrence & Wanda Lewis lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Lawrence & Wanda Lewis** - May 19, 2016 at 06:12 PM

GI

“ *Gracie Ison lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Gracie Ison** - May 19, 2016 at 05:40 PM

CO

“ *Carol Oliver lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Carol Oliver** - May 19, 2016 at 05:17 PM

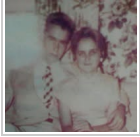
TD

“ *The Family of Ivory Dickerson purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Monnie Lewis Thornberry.*



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**The Family of Ivory Dickerson** - May 19, 2016 at 03:52 PM



“ *One of the sweetest ladies I ever met. I always enjoyed seeing her smiling face as I went through lunch line. I never ever remember seeing Monnie but she always had a hug and a smile. I know that the family is never ready to let go, however we praise God to know she has won the victory over death, hell and the grave. She is no longer in that clay body, but rejoicing with the angels for her time of sorrow and heartache is gone.*

*Another great soldier for Christ, gone home!*

*Our thoughts and prayers will be with the family and loved ones through the weeks ahead.*

*God Bless you all!*

*Love, Dennie & Millie Gilliam*



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**Millie Gilliam** - May 19, 2016 at 02:50 PM

TG

“ *The Viney Branch Construction Group purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Monnie Lewis Thornberry.*



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**The Viney Branch Construction Group** - May 19, 2016 at 01:12 PM

TD

“ My mamaw knew what the important things in life was all about....and lived to enjoy so many years. She always had the most beautiful flowers and the best foods growing in her gardens. No one ever left her house with an empty belly or without getting a hug and without her saying "I love you" She touched the heart of everyone who met her,including mine! I remember when I was a child, going to the Rocky Branch Church and others as well and hearing her shout and praise the Lord! She has been the best mamaw anyone could ever ask for. I feel so very blessed to have had her for mine :) I sure hope I make it to heaven someday so we can meet again...because there isn't a doubt in my mind that you are there right now with Jesus waiting for each of us to join you, one at a time

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**Teresa Smith DeBord** - May 19, 2016 at 01:12 PM

Jl

“ Jessica Ison lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry



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**jessica ison** - May 19, 2016 at 12:43 PM

DF

“ David & Vickie Fox



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**David & Vickie Fox** - May 19, 2016 at 12:36 PM

SA

“ *Share a memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry or send condolences to the family.*



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**sheila, kayli and Amberleigh.** - May 19, 2016 at 12:04 PM

SA

*Sheila Thornberry, Kayli Thornberry and Amberleigh Middleton.*

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**sheila, kayli and Amberleigh.** - May 19, 2016 at 12:09 PM

ST

“ *Sherry Kelley And Lonze Turner lit a candle in memory of Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Sherry Kelley and Lonze Turner** - May 19, 2016 at 11:33 AM

SU

“ *As other nieces I will always remember her as a Special Aunt....I always Loved to see her Shout and Praise the Lord in Church...Monnie was a Good Christain Woman as many that knew her...I will Miss you Aunt Monnie...but I have nothing but good Memories..your niece Susie*



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**Susie** - May 19, 2016 at 11:21 AM

BD

“ *Barbara Lewis Davis lit a candle in memory of  
Monnie Lewis Thornberry*



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**Barbara Lewis Davis** - May 19, 2016 at 11:05 AM