



## Dorothy L. Swortzel

May 13, 2019

A homecoming is always a time of rejoicing, for those who are going home. Today we celebrate with Dorothy Swortzel, our long time Clendenin friend, and neighbor. Dorothy lived a long full life, nearly reaching her 98th birthday. She went home to be with her Lord on Monday May 13th , at the age of 97. The picture that accompanies this article was taken on Saturday May 11th. She was still enjoying life and we were planning a picnic for her June 12th birthday.

Dorothy requested that I make no fuss over her passing and that things be kept as quiet and simple as possible, Dorothy was not one to demand attention. We often talked about heaven and how different it would be to life without strife, or limitations, things that are hard to conceive here on earth. Her passing was peaceful and I know she is enjoying visiting with all of her dear friends and family that she often talked about, who went before her.

Dorothy was born in Spencer, WV, to George and Virginia Copenhaver. She was one year old when they moved to Clendenin to open a Jewelry Store. Dorothy remembers the dirt roads and horse drawn buggies and the iceman. She started working for her father in the store as a teenager, always walking to work from home. She talked of her friends and having hot dogs at Dalton's store on a regular basis. She always enjoyed a good hot dog right till the end.

Dorothy met and married a young man from Virginia named William Swortzel, he was in the army in WWII, They purchased a home on Koontz Ave. near her parents and both worked at the family jewelry store. Many have told me how Dorothy helped them choose their wedding rings, 1st watch, or Mother's Day presents. She also shared many stories from "back in the day", as well as stories about her Father and the lessons he taught her in that store. She and her husband Bill continued to run the business after her father passed. Dorothy and Bill decided to retire and closed the store on Christmas Eve. 1988.

Dorothy was a faithful lifetime member of the Clendenin Baptist church. She liked to tell

me about how her father always carried her up and down all those steps. She had many happy memories of her church family and was sad when she was no longer able to attend services there. She was very thankful to her friend Phyllis Oliver who faithfully mailed her the church bulletin and brought by the quarterly Sunday School lessons.

In Dec 2015, Dorothy came to reside at the Oakridge Center care facility in Charleston, WV. She became very close to those who cared for her there. She referred to them as “the kids” and thought of them as her family. Dorothy had no children of her own, her children and grandchildren consist of all of those who adopted and loved her. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who truly knew her.

Dorothy was laid to rest next to her husband in the Koontz Cemetery.

Her only request; “that you remember her kindly and plan to see her again.”

# Cemetery

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## Koontz Cemetery

Clendenin, WV,

# Comments

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“ Brenda Vance lit a candle in memory of Dorothy L. Swortzel



**Brenda Vance** - May 23, 2019 at 11:53 PM

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“ So sad to hear of her passing but rejoicing that she is HOME. The last time I saw her, Dooug and I took her a fruit basket from the Church while she was residing with Bill Young and his wife. She was a ray of sunshine in our lives and I'm sure she and Doug are discussing old times in Clendenin.  
Sincerely,  
Martha Ore

**Martha Ore** - May 18, 2019 at 02:19 PM

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“ Mary Kennedy lit a candle in memory of Dorothy L. Swortzel



**Mary Kennedy** - May 16, 2019 at 11:57 PM

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“ I remember Miss Dorothy selling me a beautiful diamond cluster ring in the early 80's, I was in my late teens.

I also had the privilege of seeing Miss Dorothy when I worked at the Oakridge Center, I worked in the activity dept. every weekend.

She was such a precious and sweet lady, I will always remember her fondly. To her family, I am so sorry for your loss. But, without a doubt, Miss Dorothy will greet you when it is our departure date for Heaven.

Prayers for comfort,  
Mary Kennedy

**Mary Kennedy** - May 16, 2019 at 11:57 PM