



Kaye Thornton

August 28, 1946 - October 14, 2025

Graveside services for Kaye Thornton, 79, of Longview, Texas, will be held at 10:00 am, Friday, October 17, 2025, at Shady Grove Cemetery with Brother Derrell Bell officiating. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at McWhorter Funeral Home.

Kaye was born on August 28, 1946, in Dallas, Texas, to Vernon Smith and Jewel Tutt and passed from this life on October 14, 2025, in Longview, Texas.

Kaye married Arvin “Al” Thornton on February 14, 1987, in Carrollton, Texas. She managed western stores for most of her life and was also a jailer at the Dallas County Jail. She was a member of the Gilmer Church of Christ for many years. Kaye enjoyed cooking, gardening, painting, shopping, rodeo, PBR, and Bingo. She enjoyed many things, but her most treasured accomplishments were being a caregiver for her mother, as well as being a mother and a grandmother.

Those left to cherish her memory are her son, Keith Wayne Dunn; stepchildren, David Carter Thornton, Arvin Leon Thornton Jr., and Stephanie Elizabeth (Thornton) Puryear; sister, Anita Hale; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Vernon and Jewel; husband, Arvin "Al" Thornton, in 2020; and siblings, Dude Smith, Bill Smith, Darrell Smith, and Geneva Hindman.

The family would like to thank the staff at Hawkins Creek Assisted Living and Heart to Heart Hospice for their exceptional care.

Please visit Kaye's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>



Graveside Service

OCT **17.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Shady Grove
Gilmer, TX 75644

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Grandma KAye,
I'm going to miss you greatly. Thank you for all your  and kindness. I wish I would; of gotten to hug u one last time before you gained your wings!! RIH g-ma until we meet again!!! Give my momma and John a hug and  for me please!!!

Candace shaw - December 07, 2025 at 03:09 PM

DE

“ Aunt Kaye,
You and I always shared a special bong. I am so glad you are on the Lords hands now and pain free.
Give my Daddy a BIG hug! Love you two so much. Dee

Denice - November 01, 2025 at 08:56 PM

DE

Auto correct. Should be “special bond”

Denice - November 01, 2025 at 08:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Kay Thornton Funeral Service

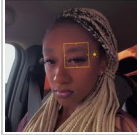


McWhorter Funeral Home - October 17, 2025 at 03:25 PM

CS

RIH grandma

Candace shaw - December 07, 2025 at 03:11 PM



“ Always so sweet & loving 😭. You will be missed Ms.Thornton 💜👍🏾!



Brenisha O'neil - October 16, 2025 at 11:31 PM



“ Kathy Hindman lit a candle in memory of Kaye Thornton



Kathy Hindman - October 16, 2025 at 10:08 PM



“ Granny K, was my favorite lady ever 😊 she truly taught me a lot. She truly inspired me to be a greater woman. I appreciate all the knowledge she gave & all the love she gave. She was so loving and caring about others. Such a loving compassionate and gifted woman👍🏾



Jordan King - October 16, 2025 at 09:49 PM



“ Brad and Sarah Smith purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kaye Thornton.



Brad and Sarah Smith - October 16, 2025 at 09:43 PM

SB

“ Sending so much love to the Thornton family. I had the deep privilege and honor of interviewing Miss Kaye for my podcast, *Can I Talk to your Grandma*, about a year ago. I was so blown away by her razor sharp memory, incredible stories, radiating warmth and easy laugh. It was such a joy to hear about her amazingly full life, and has inspired me often since we met. I'm so grateful that our paths were able to cross and that I was able to record some of her amazing stories.

Sarah Baumann - October 16, 2025 at 08:39 PM

LF

“ Love the Trossbach Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kaye Thornton.



Love the Trossbach Family - October 16, 2025 at 12:17 PM

JP

“ Words can't express my sorrow. I'm here for you all. Love you, Jennifer Ponder



Jennifer Ponder - October 16, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ 42 files added to the album Life Tributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - October 16, 2025 at 11:19 AM

SP

“ Stephanie and Brent Puryear purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kaye Thornton.



Stephanie and Brent Puryear - October 16, 2025 at 09:40 AM

SF

“ Shannon (Thornton) Wittwer and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kaye Thornton.



Shannon (Thornton) Wittwer and Family - October 16, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ *Caera (Kiki) purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kaye Thornton.* ”



Caera (Kiki) - October 16, 2025 at 09:06 AM