



## Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson

July 11, 2015

Mildred Rae Thompson of Valrico, Florida passed into the presence of her Lord, Jesus Christ, while at home on Saturday, July 11, 2015. She was 87 years old.

Mildred was born to Raymond and Eileen Harris in Lithia Pinecrest on October 2, 1927. She was the second of seven children born to the Harris' who were farmers in the area. In 1950 Mildred married Warren Thompson, a young man who had served in the Marines in WWII and was now in the Army. One of their first overseas stations was in England where Rowena was born. A few years later Patricia was born in El Paso, Texas. Mildred was happy to settle in the Brandon/Valrico area following Warren's retirement from the military in 1960 (? Date).

Mildred, Warren and the girls joined First Baptist Church of Brandon and over the years they led many and varied groups. Mildred taught a new members class for youth for a number of years and was active in leading GA's, VBS, and taking part in the women's missions group. In her later years Mildred enjoyed singing with the seniors' choir and traveling with the seniors' group. Both Mildred and Warren were active in the seniors' ministry.

In addition to her active role at church Mildred was a talented seamstress and wonderful cook, always having some special treats for the grandkids when they came to Florida. She loved doing various kinds of needlework and the walls of their home testify to her ability. Mildred volunteered at the Brandon Hospital and she and Warren both volunteered for over 25 years with Meals

on Wheels. They also volunteered at Steppin' Stone Farm for many years, encouraging both the youth and the workers at the facility. Mildred enjoyed working as a docent at Cracker Country for several years, explaining to others the unique history of the area.

The book of Proverbs, in the Bible, speaks of the children of the excellent wife "rising up and blessing her; and her husband also." Mildred's life was lived in a way that paved a well-lit path for her daughters to follow. Rowena is married to Paul Martin of Brandon and they have two children, Stephen and Jonathan, and four grandchildren, Kadin, Caleb, Calie, and Jaxon. Pat is married to Wayne Tope of Riverview.

Mildred is survived by: Warren, her husband of 65 years, her brothers, Lee and Raymond Harris, and her sisters, Jean Griffin, Francis Novak, and Margaret Wolf.

# Cemetery Details

## Florida National Cemetery

Bushnell, FL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

## Celebration of Life

JUL 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson



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Hopewell Funeral Home - July 16, 2015 at 03:52 PM

PT

“ When I promised Mom a number of years ago that I would make sure that she stayed at home and would take care of her, I had no idea what this path would encompass. I will say this....It was entirely worth every minute. It has been a true pleasure to work with Mom for the last number of years.

*Keeping her at home could not have been possible without all the wonderful ladies that helped. We all became like family. It is going to be difficult, not only with Mom's passing, but with the break up of our team, which worked 24/7 with Mom. This team allowed Mom to pass with dignity and strength.*

*I am amazed that even on the last day, Mom was very interactive, reactive to music, and ate well (through the 60 cc syringe). These past 7 months, Mom amazed us all in how many times she would have episodes where we thought "this is the end," but then Mom regrouped like a real trooper!*

*As I put together pictures of Mom's life, memories of my earlier Mom came back....I am proud of the person that Mom was.*

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Pat Tope - July 17, 2015 at 05:55 AM

LH

“ Pleasant memories of my oldest sister Mildred have been refreshed by the abundant collection of family photos on display. The one's showing scenes of Mildred, Warren & kids during Warren's military service in Great Britton jog my memory of WW2 and the "Greatest Generation". Mildred returned home with an adorable British accent mixed with her Southern accent....one of the unique experiences that made her a special person.

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**Lee Harris** - July 16, 2015 at 01:55 PM

GK

“ Greg And Lori Korte lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson



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**Greg and Lori Korte** - July 16, 2015 at 10:59 AM

GK

“ Warren and the Thompson Family,

*Mildred was a very sweet and gracious lady. She will be missed very much by our family.*

*Our prayers are with you all during this time.*

*The Korte Family*

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**Greg and Lori Korte** - July 16, 2015 at 10:59 AM

LF

“ *Lee Harris & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson.*



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**Lee Harris & Family** - July 16, 2015 at 01:24 AM

JL

“ *Jim and Linda Letizia purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson.*



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**Jim and Linda Letizia** - July 15, 2015 at 09:33 PM

LL

“ *Our thoughts are with all the family. We are not able to be at the service for Aunt Mildred, but will certainly be with you in thought and prayer. We have many memories of wonderful dinners and family get-togethers at Granny's house and in your awesome back yard sanctuary. Blessings to you, Uncle Warren, for continued strength. And to you, Rowena & Paul, Pat & Wayne. Love to all, Jim and Linda*

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**Linda Letizia** - July 15, 2015 at 08:36 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - July 15, 2015 at 01:04 PM

HU

“ Warren, Wanda and I are very sorry about the lost of your wife, Mildred was a very wonderful lady, she surely will be missed. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers...our love Hubbard and Wanda



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**hubbard/wanda** - July 15, 2015 at 12:19 PM

RH

“ Robert H. purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson.



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**Robert H.** - July 14, 2015 at 03:40 PM

RM

“ As I spent time with Mom and Dad in the past few years, the early mornings and the time before bed became a special time to just sit with them and talk. In the mornings Mom would be cheerful even though it took awhile to eat breakfast. I would be prepared to share a favorite short story or a series of jokes from Reader's Digest and she would always laugh appropriately. In the evenings before bed, Dad would try to get her to take her last medicine of the day and sometimes it took a bit of coaxing. As he spoke to her and held her hand she would become flirty and it was obvious that the love between them was strong even in her decline.

Up until the end you could tell that Mom understood much of what was being said because of her appropriate comments and laughs. I cherish the times that she listened and then made those comments that indicated she caught some of what I was saying. In the years before her illness I remember her great ability to listen without judging or offering a multitude of solutions.

I also remember Mom and Dad sharing their home with pastors, singing groups, and friends. They loved to bring both sides of the family together at family reunions. Mom was always concerned that everyone at her table leave with a full tummy. Even in the past few years she would offer to share her food with me if she thought I might not have any. Mom always seemed to be putting others first.

Rowena Martin  
July 13, 2015

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Rowena Martin - July 14, 2015 at 12:04 AM

RH

*I'm so glad you were able to spend time with your mother during her decline, Rowena. Thanks for sharing those memories.*

*When I first saw the picture used on this page, I was a bit confused. It looks almost exactly like our mother, your Grandmother Harris. I always thought she looked more like Dad as she grew older.*

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**Raymond Harris** - July 14, 2015 at 08:30 AM

JF

“ *John and Margaret Wolf and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson.*



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**John and Margaret Wolf and Family** - July 13, 2015 at 10:03 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mildred Rae Thompson.*



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July 13, 2015 at 08:46 PM

RH

“ My oldest sister, Mildred, was born October 2, 1927, the 2nd of 7 children born to Raymond Otto and Eileen Terrell Harris. Like most of the children, Mildred was not enamored with the austere life of a Florida truck farm and she longed to see some of the world during her lifetime.



When she graduated from Pinecrest High School in 1944, she attended business classes to learn typing and shorthand while staying with Grandparents Terrell in Tampa. She worked in Tampa and in Myrtle Beach but there were limited opportunities for a young woman in the post war years.

Mildred was a beautiful young woman with many ardent admirers, but there was a farm boy back home, Warren Thompson, who was crazy in love with her. Mildred told Warren repeatedly that she would not be a farmer's wife. Finally in desperation, Warren promised he would join the Army and become a career soldier. That would allow him to show her the world.

Mildred and Warren did marry May 14, 1950, in a simple ceremony in front of our little farmhouse in Lillybridge (now simply Lithia).

True to his word, Warren did become a fine soldier, and Mildred did live in England and Germany and several other assignments around the United States. They built their last home on a wooded acre in Valrico, Florida, where Mildred and Warren lived for the rest of her life. They raised two beautiful daughters, Patricia and Rowena.

Raymond Harris  
July 13, 2015

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Raymond Harris - July 13, 2015 at 04:58 PM