



Mary Sue Thornton

May 20, 1939 - February 20, 2024

Mary Sue Thornton passed away peacefully at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas on February 20th, 2024, at the age of 84.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 to 2:00pm on Monday, March 4th, 2024, at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home in Fairfield, Texas followed by the funeral service at 2:00pm. Interment at the Bonner Cemetery will be immediately following the service.

Mary Sue was born on May 20th, 1939, in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Murrell Howard Thornton and Sarah Harris Thornton. Mary Sue grew up and went to school in Muskogee and spent summers and holidays at the family farm in Stewards Mill, Texas. She graduated as valedictorian from Central High School, Muskogee in 1957. She went on to attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1961. Mary Sue was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Beta Phi, Mortar Board, Pi Mu Epsilon, and the Cotillion Club. Mary Sue enjoyed a long and successful career as a computer programmer and software engineer at LTV/E-Systems/Raytheon, where she worked on highly classified programs. It was at LTV that Mary Sue met Ed Redwine, her future husband. Amongst many other projects, Mary Sue did programming for the NASA Apollo missions, and she and Ed were on the initial team that delivered & installed the first software/firmware/hardware

system at the Joint Defense Space Research Facility in Alice Springs, Australia in 1972. Mary Sue was listed in Who's Who in Computers and Data Processing Vol. 1 in 1971.

Mary Sue and Ed dated for 14 years and married in 1980 in the Presbyterian Church in Fairfield. They bought a historic home in the Highland Park neighborhood of Dallas and relocated there in 1990. They were married for 42 years, working together as software engineers, spending their time side by side, and collaborating on all facets of life. Mary Sue, along with Ed, was a member of the Raytheon Retirees Association, Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Trinity Star Arts Council, and the Sheriff's Association of Texas. Mary Sue and Ed enjoyed a variety of activities throughout the years, including tennis, square dancing at the C3B level and working on the C4 level (the black belt of square dancing), and the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle. They maintained a Thursday night supper club tradition for 17 years at Aboca's restaurant. Mary Sue loved managing the family farm in Stewards Mill, walking the pastures with Ed, looking for lost cows, and mending fences. She maintained strong Bonner family and community ties, always attending the Bonner family reunions, the Bonner Cemetery annual meeting, the Stewards Mill Homecoming, the TSAC and farm bureau events in Fairfield, and, when schedule permitted, the Christmas program at the Stewards Mill church. She and Ed continued to maintain the family farmhouse in Stewards Mill where Mary Sue's grandparents lived.

Mary Sue was an original member of the Class Act Tap Company from its inception in August 1986. Class Act is a tap dance company for senior women, and it became a huge part of her life. She performed with Class Act and served as their director until February 2023. Mary Sue, as a dedicated volunteer director, managed to schedule over 3,300 performances entertaining at senior communities, veteran's celebrations, corporate events, and church functions. She tirelessly taught tap lessons to some of the ladies

who had never danced before. She delighted in spreading joy to all the audiences, as she loved their smiles and the appreciation for having their spirits lifted. When Mary Sue missed a performance, which was rare, audiences would ask for her. In addition to Class Act, Mary Sue was also an avid performer for the Spectacular Follies for the past 12 years. At 4'9", she wore beautiful, very high heels and would chuckle with "Small people have small wrinkles!". She brought high energy and a keen sense of humor to all her dancing activities. In the words of her friends, Mary Sue was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

Mary Sue was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Edward William Redwine, and her aunt, Sue Bonner Thornton. She is survived by her nephew-in-law, Eric Wilbur Trammell; Eric's family (wife, Tays Oliveira Trammell; son, William Fonseca Trammell; and daughters Emily Fonseca Trammell and Anna Oliveira Trammell); and by various cousins including Bobby, Frank, and Jody Bonner.

Cemetery Details

Bonner Cemetery

County Road 151
Fairfield, TX

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Fairfield
450 East Main Street
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-9217
info@griffin-roughton.com

Funeral Service

MAR 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Fairfield
450 East Main Street
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-9217
info@griffin-roughton.com

Tribute Wall



“ Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Sue Thornton



Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home - February 29, 2024 at 06:15 PM

MR

Sincerest condolences to Mary Sue's family & friends. I met Mary Sue & Ed over 30 years ago. I have many wonderful memories of both Mary Sue & Ed. She will be missed. Love, Margaret Ann Ragus

Margaret Ragus - April 18, 2024 at 07:22 PM

MR

“ Sincerest sympathy. Love, Margaret Ragus



Margaret Ragus - April 19, 2024 at 09:51 AM

RJ

“ Raymond J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Sue Thornton.

Raymond J. - March 04, 2024 at 11:18 AM

CL

“ *Mary Sue was a lifetime member of Mortar Board and will be greatly missed.*

*With condolences to her many friends,
Cara Lisenby
Director of Outreach & Engagement
Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society*

Cara Lisenby - March 04, 2024 at 10:23 AM

JE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jeri Edwards - March 03, 2024 at 09:46 AM

FL

“ *Forever and ever, THE GROOVY LADIES purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Mary Sue Thornton.*



Forever and ever, THE GROOVY LADIES - March 03, 2024 at 09:31 AM

FL

“ *Forever and ever, THE GROOVY LADIES planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Sue Thornton.*

Forever and ever, THE GROOVY LADIES - March 03, 2024 at 09:31 AM

CC

“ Mary Sue was a friend from junior high on. I met her when we both attended West High in Muskogee and later Central High. She was one of our group of girls. I loved seeing her at our Class of 57 reunions. Lots of memories from lots of years.

Caroline Langley Cheek - March 01, 2024 at 12:22 PM

SR

“ Condolences to all of you. My parents lived across the street from Mary Sue and Ed until my mom moved into the Edgemere in 2014 (my Dad passed in 2009). Both of my parents really enjoyed having them as neighbors and I also remember them fondly. I see that Mary Sue passed on what would have been my Dad's 98th birthday! I saw her tap dance group once and boy, what a little dynamo she was :)

Suzy Renz - February 29, 2024 at 05:02 PM

MH

“ Miller Prairie hunters purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Sue Thornton.



Miller Prairie hunters - February 29, 2024 at 01:41 PM

MH

“ Miller Prairie hunters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Sue Thornton.

Miller Prairie hunters - February 29, 2024 at 01:41 PM

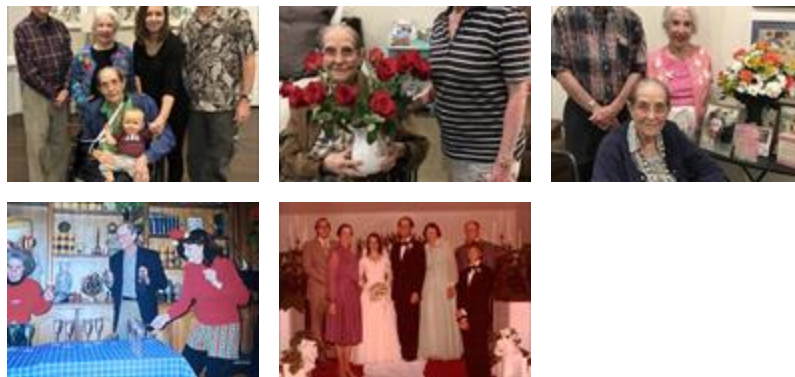
MR

“ I met Mary Sue through my brief stint with Class Act. What a lovely person! She was very welcoming and encouraging to this newcomer. She was an inspiration in her non-stop activity. I wish I had a fraction of her vitality and am grateful to have known her.

Margaret Rogers - February 29, 2024 at 11:45 AM

ET

“ 33 files added to the album Mary Sue Remembrances



Eric Trammell - February 28, 2024 at 07:08 PM

LB

“ Such a sweet, sweet lady, never met a stranger and a very positive attitude about everything. God bless her, she is with her Ed now.

LANA BENSON - February 22, 2024 at 03:41 PM

PZ

“ Mary Sue was a fixture at E-Systems, and was well known throughout the campus. She was a kind individual and very devoted to her mother, and her husband Ed Redwine. I always enjoyed catching up with her whenever we ran into each other. She loved her dance group and that kept her very active.

Phil Ziegelbaum - February 22, 2024 at 12:52 PM

MB

“ Mary Sue was 5 years older and her childhood visits to Stewards Mill from Oklahoma were special. She would visit her grandparents, and we would make a special effort to visit them when her family was in Texas. Mary Sue, Sue, Sarah, and Carder were always special for my family, both Watson and Bonner. Her wedding to Ed was a wonderful celebration. In later years, she was a conscientious and devoted caregiver to both Sue and Sarah. Somehow, I never contemplated a world without her.

Michael Edd Bonner - February 21, 2024 at 08:01 PM

MP

“ Mary Sue is one of the kindest people I have met. I have known Mary Sue for ever 30 years. She blessed my life with the gift of being able to see the outdoors and enjoy God's great creation. She always took care of our group and enjoyed us hunting her land and being a part of its beauty. Many great memories were made for me starting at the age of 17.

I am sorry for her loss and know she is in a better place and filled many lives with happiness.

Matt Pickens - February 21, 2024 at 08:37 AM

JB

Mary Sue Thornton will always have a special place in my heart. She loved her land and entrusted me to manage the hunters and to help look after the land. Her land gave us peace and serenity, I felt peace every time I was there. I thank God I knew her.

Jerry Broome

Jerry Broome - February 21, 2024 at 10:45 AM

SR

Mary Sue will be missed by so many. We had the pleasure of knowing and hunting the White House land for 50 years. So many memories made and we want to say thank you for everything. We all thank god that we knew her and the family.

White House Hunters

shane Richards - February 21, 2024 at 12:35 PM

TT

Mrs. Mary Sue was such a beautiful person inside and out. She was always smiling and just full of energy. She would make the popcorn for our girls for Christmas and that was so thoughtful of her. Always giving and never asking for anything in return. She will be dearly missed.

Theresa Thurman - February 21, 2024 at 01:39 PM

CR

We were so blessed to have had the opportunity to lease the White House Ranch for near 50 years from Mrs. Thornton. The outdoors experience and the countless memories of several family generations is just priceless! May you R.I.P and thank you so much!

Chad Richards - February 21, 2024 at 06:00 PM

CR



Chad Richards - February 21, 2024 at 06:37 PM

WI

Such a sweet lady and will be missed. We hunted on her Cedar Brake land for 60 years. Cedar Brake hunters.

Walter L Priddy III - February 23, 2024 at 01:04 PM

BA

What a perfectly delightful lady! And very talented! We had pleasure of enjoying her dancing at Senior Folies several years! She always remembered us every Christmas with her special popcorn can! We will miss her!!

Be my and Tom Abbott

Be ky and Tom Abbott - February 28, 2024 at 11:46 AM

RF

Mary Sue was a wonderfully talented key member of our company engineering team at LTV Astronautics (which was under contract to NASA) in the 1960s on the Apollo Program. With her brilliant computer programming and math skills she helped solve a critical thermodynamics problem that permitted autonomous control of external spacecraft radiator heat rejection in earth orbit and during trans lunar flights.

*Ray French, former Director of Space Programs
at Lockheed Martin Corp, Dallas
San Diego, CA*

Raymond French - March 03, 2024 at 09:05 PM