



## Thelma Jean Hensley

November 7, 1938 - June 8, 2020

Thelma Jean Hensley, age 81, passed away on Monday, June 8, 2020. Born in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, she grew up close to her four siblings, laughing, dancing, loving and supporting each other.

After graduating from Thomas R. Brown High School in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, Thelma attended Morehead State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Later, she earned her Master's degree from Ashland University in education. She was a passionate teacher, devoted to teaching her students to read. Most of her career was at Royal Manor Elementary in Gahanna Jefferson Schools where she taught first grade. Above everything, Thelma was devoted to her family. She planned and enjoyed endless fun and adventure with her husband of 45 years, Donald Hensley. Thelma was always up to try something new and Don was her partner (even if he was sometimes reluctant). The shenanigans included disco lessons, card parties, home improvement projects, bowling, community events and square dancing to name a few. A tireless champion for her daughters, she volunteered for every possible committee, coached cheerleading squads, served on the Board of Education, cooked delicious family dinners and treats, planned outrageously fun family vacations and enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren absolutely rotten. Friends and family looked forward to the hundreds of holiday cookies and candies she made annually with her daughters and grandchildren. Thelma made friends and was a hoot the minute she entered any room. She loved assisting other residents at Parkside Village, cutting a rug during musical performances (even if no one else was dancing) and providing seasonal decor for every possible holiday. She made the most of every single day. Thelma will be greatly missed by her family and friends. She was preceded in death by the love of her life and husband, Donald Lawrence Hensley; mother, Audrey Beckett; father Garland Barker, sister, Deloris Pancake; brother, Bobby Barker and step daughter, Kim Thompson. She is survived by her daughters, Jenny Hensley and Angela (Tim) Hensley-Secret; step-daughter, Kay(Nate) Pino; step son-in-law, Jeff Thompson; her precious grandchildren, Audrey and Jake Secret and Ian (Samantha) Thompson; great-grandson, Easton Thompson; sisters, Janice Henry, Patsy (Buck) Crank; sister-in-law, Patricia Barker and many other extended family members and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Thelma's name

to the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library that provides children with a new book in the mail each month at no cost to them from birth to age five. Contributions may be sent to Ohio Governor's Imagination Library(memo-Thelma Hensley fund), 2168 Sutter Parkway, Dublin, Ohio 43016 or online <http://www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org/donate> <<http://www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org/donate>> Family and friends will celebrate Thelma's life during a private, virtual service on Friday, June 19.

# Comments

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“ Jenny and Angie - Our caring and loving thoughts are with you at this difficult time with the loss of your mom. My fondest memory is the relationship your family had with my father and mother. Dad always had a "twinkle in his eye" when he saw your mom, dad and both of you walk up the driveway at Rocky Fork Drive to the front porch where he usually sat. Your mom touched many lives both professionally and personally. Cindy and I always enjoyed talking and sharing "teaching stuff" with your mom. It is our pleasure to donate to the "Ohio Imagination Library" in your mom's name. May time ease your sorrow and give you peace. With sympathy - Mike and Cindy Hensley

**Mike and Cindy Hensley** - June 20, 2020 at 03:19 PM

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“ Dear girls,

Thelma and I played golf at Blackhawk while our husbands played also with a group of guys. We talked a lot about our children. She was very proud of both of you girls. I am so sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,  
Shelba Wood

**shelba** - June 14, 2020 at 10:39 PM

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“ Thelma was a second mom to many of us growing up in Gahanna. She taught us to love, laugh and treat others with respect and dignity while having some of the greatest times of our life. It with a heavy heart that we extend our deepest condolences to Poppa Don, Angie/Tim, Jenny and the entire extended Hensley family. Its simply an honor to be part of her legacy and be able to reflect on the positive impact she made on each of our lives.

**Marlon Gammon** - June 14, 2020 at 01:01 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thelma Jean Hensley.



June 11, 2020 at 07:51 PM

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“ Mes. Hensley taught my daughter Adrienne Kaiser in her preschool class and then at Royal Manor. She was an exceptional teacher and very loved by my daughter. She took her under her wing and made her soar! She over excelled in school and Thelma made sure she was challenged. We have spoken of her often with fondness in our hearts. Our family is sorry for your loss. May you take comfort in knowing that she touched the hearts of so many children with her gift of teaching.

**Patricia Kaiser** - June 11, 2020 at 07:13 PM

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“ You will be missed by all who knew you. I will always remember you when I make your famous Danish pastry. I get peace by knowing you are with Dad and Kim. Love you.



**Karen Bricker Pino** - June 11, 2020 at 06:43 PM

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“ In loving memory of my sweet Aunt Thelma. You can now sing/dance and love dad, mamma and papaw. Rest in peace. Love you!



Laura Barker Taylor - June 11, 2020 at 04:23 PM