

Mabel C. Kelley

October 11, 1920 - February 7, 2016

Mabel Kelley, born October 11, 1920, passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at the grand age of 95, on her own terms, in her own home, in her own bed. Mabel was born in Little Rock, Arkansas the year women got the right to vote in the U.S.A which is fitting for Mabel, who was very independent her entire life. When the Great Depression began, Mabel was 8 years old, and had to start picking cotton to help support the family, living on a sharecropper's farm in Mississippi. When she was 17 years old,



Mabel married her brother Jim's best friend, Earl Taunton. After she was married, Mabel never had to pick cotton again. While living in Tehachapi, Mabel met Harry Truman on a whistle stop campaign tour. When the train pulled into the station, Mabel exclaimed, "Here he is!" to which Truman replied, "Yes I am!" Mabel and Earl had three children in three different decades.

The family settled in Ventura back in 1959. Earl passed in 1962. In 1971 Mabel married Lewis Arthur Kelley, the love of her life. Mabel and Kelley loved fishing, traveling, and playing games. Mabel was again widowed in 1977. After Kelley passed, Mabel kept busy with her work, waitressing at the Vagabond Coffee Shop. Every Spring, Mabel would plant a garden, growing a variety of fresh vegetables. Mabel took advantage of the opportunity to learn new things after her retirement. Cake decorating, flower arranging, crocheting, and quilting. Everyone in her family has something made by Mabel's own hands. Mabel was able to travel around the world, visiting the U.K., Spain, Portugal, Egypt, Australia and new Zealand.

Mabel lost her firstborn, Helen in 2007. Mabel is survived by her daughters, Carol (Josh) Brock, Ventura, and Charlotte Wilmeth, Randle Washington, 10 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 20 plus great-great grandchildren. Mabel's whole life was lived in service to others, her family, friends, and co-workers will all miss her. Mabel's adventures continue, in spirit.