



## Glenna Mae Whitaker Cornett, homemaker

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Glenna Mae Whitaker Cornett grew up in the mountains of Kentucky, married and moved to Cold Spring with hopes of finding a better life but never of abandoning the simple life of her upbringing.

"She lived a quiet, simple life," said her granddaughter, Denise Johnson of Fort Thomas. "She never had extravagant things. Never had a diamond in her life."

Mrs. Cornett died March 6 at age 84 at Hospice of the Bluegrass-Northern Kentucky in Fort Thomas. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Cornett grew up in Blackie, a little mountain town near Whitesburg in Harlan County. At 18, she married Kermit Cornett.

"They packed up and moved to Cold Spring in 1946 or 1947 to find a better life," said Johnson.

"They built their own home. They bought a little piece of land, and built the house with brick and concrete--it just had a crawl space--they built everything in it."

"Grandma and Grandpa spent their whole life in love. How cool is that?" said Johnson. "When Grandpa was paralyzed and in the nursing home, she would go there and feed him, sit with him every day."

Kermit Cornett died in 2007. The couple were married for 65 years.

As a homemaker, Mrs. Cornett kept busy with gardening and canning.

"She grew cabbage, apples, peaches--everything was fresh. She did all her canning, and stored stuff in the crawl space. Apple butter was her big thing," said Johnson. "She also made chocolate gravy. The grandkids thought it was more like chocolate pudding. It had butter, cocoa, flour, and sugar in it. Grandpa used to eat it with biscuits."

Mrs. Cornett also enjoyed quilting.

"She would make quilts out of her old pants," said Johnson. "She just wouldn't waste anything."

Mrs. Cornett was diagnosed with lung cancer, cancer in the lymph nodes, and pancreatic cancer in February 2007.

"If she was like a cat, then she had nine lives," said Johnson. "We were told she wouldn't live past April, but she did. She got sick again in December, and thought she wasn't going to make it, but she did."

Mrs. Cornett lived a year from her initial diagnosis, and her granddaughter's positive attitude and care helped.

"My goal was not to make her dwell. It's like the Tim McGraw song, 'Live Like You Were Dying'." said Johnson, referring to the popular country song about living life to the fullest and spending time with loved ones. "If I could be positive for her, then she could be positive."

Other survivors besides Mrs. Cornett's granddaughter include her son, Don Cornett of Venice, Fla.; grandsons, Greg Cornett of Fort Thomas and Matthew Cornett of Pendleton County; granddaughters, Melissa Cornett-Bohmer of Florence, and Angela Lewin of Cincinnati; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Alexandria Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday

at the funeral home. Burial will be in Alexandria Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice of the Bluegrass-Northern Kentucky, 1403 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas, Ky. 41075.



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