

Remembering Dorothy Goodykoontz

April 9, 1921 – December 24, 2019



More than 100 guests attended the Celebration of Life for Dorothy Goodykoontz on February 1 to pay tribute to an amazing woman and one of Girl Scouting's biggest supporters. Dorothy was a long-time Girl Scout who touched the lives of many.

"She volunteered for our council for more than 50 years in different capacities, including as council president and chair of the board of directors," said GSSJC CEO Mary Vitek. "Everything Dorothy did, she did with kindness, strength and grace. She was a true example to follow." The celebration was held at Dorothy's namesake, the Program Place for Girls and Goodykoontz Museum of Girl Scout History, which featured displays dedicated to her years and involvement as a council volunteer. "Most of what you see at the Program Place and Museum was Dorothy's vision – part history, part program and all fun," said Vitek.



"Dorothy was a part of many projects over the years, and I think she was particularly proud of this and Goody's Treehouses, one of the most popular units at Camp Agnes Arnold that bears her camp name...Goody."

Given Dorothy's love of sing-alongs, family and friends sang traditional Girl Scout songs and shared touching memories of Dorothy at the celebration of life, recalling her relentlessness as she recruited volunteers, hosted trainings and planned council-wide girl events with thousands of girls in attendance.

One of the big events was the Sing 'n Celebrate event at the San Jacinto Monument in 2002, celebrating the council's 80th birthday. Thousands of Girl Scouts ran around the grounds exchanging swaps, singing and having so much fun, just as Dorothy and her committee had envisioned. "It's humbling to see how Dorothy made such an impact on so many of us and gave us the most cherished of all gifts, friendship," said Vitek.

Dorothy's love of history and reading led her to a lead role in creating a library that houses historical memorabilia at the council headquarters. The Program Place and the Goodykoontz Museum of Girl Scout History opened in 2007.

Dorothy was also a founding member of Emerald Circle, which was established as an endowment to fund scholarships for girls.

Dorothy's first love was always her family and she enjoyed visiting her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren in Maine as well as traveling the world, always with family, which she did until she was 90. She loved her dogs and spent many enjoyable hours with hand needlework of all kinds.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her husband, Dan. She is survived by her daughter Debbie, her son Bill and his wife Deb, grandchildren Chris, Nick, and Lindsey, as well nieces and nephews.

Juliette Gordon Low once said the work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers. Dorothy, on behalf of the many Girl Scouts whose lives you touched, thank you for your work and dedication.