



## Dorothy Wheeler Ellis-Boerke

June 17, 1922 - March 8, 2013

DOROTHY "BUGS" MARIE (WHEELER) ELLIS-BOERKE June 17, 1922 ~ March 8, 2013 "Bugs" as she was known to all, was born to Marie and Howard Wheeler on June 17, 1922 at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah. She graduated from East High School in S.L.C. in 1940 and attended one year at the University of Utah. The following summer of 1941, Bugs worked at Bryce Canyon National Park where she was expected to line up to greet the incoming guests, take care of all their needs, serving the meals, dancing with the guests and then cleaning up. The next day, they would do it again. Bugs then moved to San Francisco where she worked for Shell Oil Co. and met her lifelong friend, Hermine Skirboll. On a blind date, she met Herschel Ellis, a U.S. Air Corp B-17 pilot. They were to have another date, but what he couldn't tell her was that he was being shipped overseas the next morning. He sent her a dozen roses and the next time she heard from him, he was a POW in Germany. Upon Herschel's release in 1945, he mailed her an engagement ring. They were married in Berkeley, California on September 13, 1947. Herschel's 34-year career with the USDA provided them the opportunity to travel the world and experience wonderful sights and people. After Herschel's passing, Bugs married Thomas Boerke in 1997, and they too, shared a life of world travel. Bugs will always be remembered for her infectious joy and laughter, and "the life of the party" personality. She will be missed by all those she touched. Bugs is survived by her son, Cleve (Cyndi) Ellis; step-son, Todd (Marilyn) Boerke; step-daughter, Allison Matthewman;

and seven grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at Evergreen Memorial Gardens on March 23, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. All who know Bugs are welcome to attend.

# Tribute Wall



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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 05:23 PM