



Lillian Wilma Wood

October 12, 1921 - June 17, 2017

Lillian Butler Wood (Oct. 12, 1921-June 17, 2017) was known by most people as a great cook, by a few people as a gifted teller of old family stories, by her children as a selfless and loving parent, and by all who knew her as an optimistic, gentle, unassuming example of what a good human being might aspire to be. Many would say she had a hard life. She never saw it that way. She was always grateful for what she had--especially her family and her health--and always counted her blessings when she saw others in need.

The first half of her life was spent in Clay County, Arkansas, in the "suburbs" of Piggott, where she loved to reminisce about her beloved Grandpa Grissom taking her to town in a wagon and Grandma Grissom assigning her the task of churning butter. Her favorite stories involved her father-in-law, the most loving man she'd ever known--who cherished his grand kids and went to all lengths to entertain them. She also loved to tell of the birth of her oldest son, Larry, who was delivered at home, and how they paid the doctor with a ham they had recently cured.

The second half of her life was spent in Jonesboro, Arkansas, where she and Guy moved when their oldest daughter, Rhonda, was ready to go to college at ASU. She and Guy managed restaurants until they decided to buy the Tip Top Cafe, which they ran until Guy decided it was time to retire when they were both in their 60's.

After sitting at home for a couple of months, Lillian knew that retirement was not for her, returned to work managing various kitchens, and sealed her reputation as the best cook in the area. Her kids were able to talk her into semi-retirement at age 75, but she worked two days a week, making chicken and dumplings and peach cobbles at Western Sizzlin, until she finally decided to accept daughter Teresa's offer to move in with her at age 89.

Lillian died peacefully in the home of her beloved daughter and son-in-law, James and Teresa Reece, where she lived the last seven years of her life enjoying the view from her screened-in back porch. The view included her numerous flowers, the hummingbird feeders that attracted her favorite birds, an old barn and cattle in a field that reminded her

of her early roots in Clay County, and great grandchildren whom she adored and who cherished her.

She was preceded in death by her husband Guy Wood (1987) and a son, Randall, and leaves her son Larry (Peggy) Wood, daughters Rhonda (Jerry) Seidenwurm, Teresa (James) Reece, and Connie (Tom) Cromwell to both mourn her passing and celebrate her life. She will also be remembered with love and laughter by seven grand children: (Mike, Alan, Randy, Beth, Becky, Matt, and Olivia) great grand children, six brothers and sisters, special friend Shirley Laster, and an assortment of others who were blessed by her life.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, June 20, at 1:00 pm, with visitation beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Irby Funeral Home in Rector, Arkansas. Burial will follow in the Piggott Cemetery with Irby Funeral Home of Piggott in charge of the arrangements.

Those who wish may send condolences to the family by signing the online guest book at www.irbyfuneralhome.com or visit our Facebook page.

Cemetery

Events

Piggott Cemetery

Piggott, AR, 72454

JUN **Visitation** 11:30AM - 01:00PM

20

Irby-Mitchell Funeral Home of Rector
713 East 9th Street Hwy 49, Rector, AR, US, 72461

JUN **Service** 01:00PM

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Irby-Mitchell Funeral Home of Rector
713 East 9th Street Hwy 49, Rector, AR, US, 72461

Comments



“ Lorrie Brady Evans lit a candle in memory of Lillian Wilma Wood



Lorrie Brady Evans - June 25, 2017 at 01:21 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss . She was one in a million. Best cook too. I know she will be so missed but she will always be with you and watching out for you like she always has. Much Love to you and your family.

Lorrie - June 25, 2017 at 01:26 PM



“ To all the family of Mrs. Wood: I am so very sorry for your loss. My name is Jo Ann (Phillips) Gambill. I lived across the street from Mrs Wood on Parkwood. Many times Mrs. Wood, Marie, Shirley, Jay and myself would gather in Shirley's front yard and share stories of our upbringing and about our families. We all had a good time and lots of laughs. I will never forget her smiling face and kind spirit. My Heart goes out to all of you.
Jo Ann

Jo Ann (Phillips) Gambill - June 22, 2017 at 04:15 PM



“ Nancy Higdon, LeRoy & Dorothy Gatlin sent a virtual gift in memory of Lillian Wilma Wood



Nancy Higdon, LeRoy & Dorothy Gatlin - June 19, 2017 at 07:30 PM



“ What a beautiful woman inside and out. Many childhood memories come from being in her home. My first job...waitress at her restaurant. Prayers for all those that loved her. You were blessed to have had her.
Brenda Mobley Gibbs

Brenda Gibbs - June 19, 2017 at 03:26 PM



“ Rhonda Turner lit a candle in memory of Lillian Wilma Wood



Rhonda Turner - June 19, 2017 at 03:15 PM