



Emma Jean McDonald

February 17, 1934 - January 6, 2019

Emma Jean McDonald, age 84, of Marion, IL, passed away at 1:02 p.m. on Sunday, January 6, 2019, in Heartland Regional Medical Center of Marion, IL.

She was born on Saturday, February 17, 1934 at the 20-acre homeplace in Creal Springs, IL. Emma Jean is the daughter of Howard Lee and Carrie Mae (Beasley) Parks. She was loved dearly and loved in return her three older siblings Wilma, Lindell, and Carroll.

At the age of 13, Emma gave her heart to Jesus while at a revival at Arnold View Free Will Baptist Church. She continued in her steadfast faith throughout her life and was an influence for many others in coming to faith in Christ.

Emma Jean attended school at Crab Orchard, IL and was a graduate of Crab Orchard High School Class of 1952.

She was united in marriage to William Eugene "Bill" McDonald on Saturday, July 5, 1952, in Arnold View Free Will Baptist Church, located south of Crab Orchard, and together they shared nearly 59 years of marriage until his death on Friday, March 4, 2011. To this union was born two children, William "Terry" McDonald in 1954 and Sherri (McDonald) Milburn in 1956.

Emma Jean was a homemaker the majority of her lifetime managing her home and seeing to the needs of her family. She actively served alongside her husband while he pastored at local churches including: Rock Springs Freewill Baptist Church in Thebes, Pittsburg Freewill Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Union Freewill Baptist Church near Thompsonville, and Liberty No. 6 Freewill Baptist Church near Johnston City.

She was a woman who loved God and a prayer warrior. She lived out the words that she professed. She was a member of Union Freewill Baptist Church near Thompsonville. In her spare time she enjoyed fishing, camping, organizing parties, hosting events, and entertaining. She loved cooking and was known for her pies. Emma Jean enjoyed singing and was known for her beautiful alto voice often singing in church services. Her family was the most important part of her life and she was always interested in all of their many activities and enjoyed the times they all would be together. The many memories that have been created will now be cherished by those she leaves behind.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband; son, William Terry McDonald in 1981; sister and brother-in-law, Wilma and Leonard Lay and brother, Lindell Parks.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sherri and David Milburn of Marion; two grandchildren, Kari Milburn White and her husband Drew of Clarksville, TN and Terry Milburn and his wife Lyndsay of Creal Springs; four great grandchildren, Emmalyn White, Blake Milburn, Wyatt Milburn and Sula White; brother and sister-in-law, Carroll and Pauline Parks of Gary, IN; daughter-in-law, Marba Nell Bertling of Goreville, IL; sister-in-law, Marcheeta Parks of Marion; friend and caregiver, Debby Johnson of Olive Branch, IL, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other extended family, and many friends.

And now, believers in Christ, we can have the peace that she has heard the words, "Well done good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:23). It is our hope that everyone hears the same words when called to leave this world by accepting this promise:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Arrangements for Emma Jean McDonald have been entrusted to Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court St., Marion.

The visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10th, at the funeral home.

The funeral service will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 11, 2019, at Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home with Pastor David Milburn presiding.

Interment will follow next to her husband in Rose Hill Cemetery, of Marion, with Rev. Kenneth Blumenstock presiding.

For those who prefer, memorial contributions may be made to "Camp Jericho" and mailed in care of Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court Street, Marion, IL 62959.

Memorial envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

For additional information please call the funeral home at 618-993-2131.

Cemetery

Rose Hill Cemetery
1445 North Court Street
Marion, IL, 62959

Events

JAN 10 Visitation 04:00PM - 08:00PM

Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home
900 N. Court St., Marion, IL, US, 62959

JAN 11 Funeral Service 01:00PM

Wilson McReynolds Funeral Home
900 North Court Street, Marion, IL, US, 62959

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - January 10 at 09:21 AM



“ Very nice. Emma Jean will be missed. See ya in Heaven!

Joyce Treat - January 11 at 12:12 PM



“ I'm sorry for your loss. I'm sure Mrs. McDonald is in heaven right now. You are in our thoughts and prayers. David, it is a pleasure to work with you as a chaplain. God bless, Russell and Sandy Hargraves

Russell Hargraves - January 12 at 01:33 PM



“ Jim & Ruth Flanagan sent a virtual gift in memory of Emma Jean McDonald



Jim & Ruth Flanagan - January 11 at 10:18 PM



“ Sharon S Emery lit a candle in memory of Emma Jean McDonald



Sharon S Emery - January 11 at 08:25 AM



“ Charla Schroeder Murphy lit a candle in memory of Emma Jean McDonald



Charla Schroeder Murphy - January 10 at 03:32 PM



“ 112 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - January 09 at 01:23 PM



“ Emma Jean was one of the prettiest, most kind and loving women I have known. She was always so gentle and understanding. I love the entire family and my heart is saddened by this great loss. I do know however, that there is a great reunion going on in Heaven! Sending love and hugs to the family.

Pam Reuscher - January 09 at 09:26 AM



“ Bryan & Julie Whitmore-Parks, Sweet Home, OR. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Emma Jean McDonald.



Bryan & Julie Whitmore-Parks, Sweet Home, OR. - January 08 at 11:14 PM



“ Emma Jean was always a special individual in my life, growing up just down the road from us. We were always at each others house, eating left overs after Sunday night church. Going to Bible School for two weeks in a row with a big picnic at the end. Camping in the summer with loads of cousins. Great memories. I was priviledge to spend two evenings with her a few days before her passing and even though she was in a lot of pain it did not keep us from laughing and talking. Love that lady with all my heart and all of her family. Glenda (Beasley) Lang.

Glenda Lang - January 08 at 05:03 PM



“ Debbie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Emma Jean McDonald



Debbie Johnson - January 08 at 01:42 PM



“ Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Emma Jean McDonald



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - January 07 at 06:09 PM