



Joye Carol Wright

January 9, 1936 - August 26, 2025

Heaven's doors opened and welcomed home Joye Carol Reed Wright on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. While it's a loss for her family and friends, Joye is now safe and whole in the loving arms of her Savior. Joye was born on January 9, 1936 in Judsonia, Arkansas in the front bedroom of the house that would be her lifetime home. She was greeted with much love by her parents Ralph and Mary (Forbes) Reed. On June 9, 1957 she began her married life with James Edward Wright, creating the beginning of a family full of life and love. She will be greatly missed by her children, Cheri Wright and Suzanne Bennett, both of Judsonia, and Carol Byrd of Bald Knob. Her loving family also includes Carol's husband Randy Byrd, her grandchildren, Bryce Bennett, Carrie (Byrd) Brown, Lauren (Bennett) Gilstrap, and Brian Byrd and their spouses, Autumn, William, Cody and Allechia. She cherished her great grandchildren, Bellamy, Jameson, and Sullivan Bennett, Caleb Brown, Logan, Noah, and Maisy Gilstrap, and Graham and Brooks Byrd. She is predeceased by her husband, parents, infant brother David Reed, and her "Auntie" Alice Browning. Joye was a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, but also, Joye was a lifelong educator. She spent her 50 year career touching the lives of innumerable students. Her first year of teaching was at Turrell, Arkansas before she came home to marry Jimmy. She then worked at Kensett High School, teaching English, Journalism and serving as librarian and sponsor of the school newspaper. She then continued her career at Bald Knob Public Schools as the junior high English teacher before

transitioning to librarian until her retirement in 2012. While Joye was an exacting teacher with high expectations of her students, her greatest impact was not just an imparting of knowledge, but in the way that she affected her students' lives. She taught more than just English. She made her students believe that they were smart and capable, and that they could achieve great things if they tried. She exemplified the idea that students learn when they know the teacher cares about them, even when the caring was hidden behind her strict demeanor. She was amused and slightly proud when she found out that some students referred to her as "the Old Battle Axe." From the "Lillipution Wedding" in Kensett to the many BKJS Student Council programs, she enjoyed putting her students on stage, encouraging them to display their talents and abilities. As librarian, she continued using her teaching skills to encourage students to learn more about any topic in which they were interested. If they didn't have a particular interest, she was happy to help provide one for them. She especially enjoyed sharing her love of Arkansas history and spent many hours developing lessons to encourage that love in her students, even having a sixth grade class create an alphabet book about Bald Knob. Joye's love for children also included her church family, where she taught alongside her mother in the Beginners Sunday School class for many years, and later was a consistent supporter of the Children's ministry. Joye was a teacher until the very end, teaching many lessons to her incredible care team who helped provide her with the love, respect, grace, and dignity that she deserved, and for which her family will be forever grateful. Donations may be made to First Baptist Church Judsonia Lula Browning Forbes Memorial Library Fund in Joye's memory.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Powell Funeral Home in Bald Knob. Services will be conducted Friday, August 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Judsonia with William Brown and Bro. Carey Trickey officiating. Interment will follow in the Evergreen Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob - Judsonia. www.powellfuneralhome.net.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

Van Buren Street
Judsonia, AR 72081

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)
1272 Highway 367 North
Bald Knob, AR 72010
(501) 724-3201
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

AUG 29. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Judsonia
611 Van Buren Street
Judsonia, AR 72081

Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Joye Carol Wright



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 28, 2025 at 01:12 PM

BE

We were lucky to have her at Kensett. Great teacher!

Beth - August 30, 2025 at 09:32 PM

CC

I was blessed to be taught Mrs. Wright in Jr. High. She cared about us and set a great an example for us to follow in all areas of our life. Thank you Mrs. Wright for your dedication. My condolences to the family Charolette Davidson BKHS Class 1978

Charolette Counts - September 09, 2025 at 02:37 AM



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Joye Carol Wright



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 28, 2025 at 01:09 PM

FO

“ Always a smile! Such a life well lived ❤️



Fonda - August 30, 2025 at 09:42 AM

MD

“ Bill and I send our sincere condolences to all of you. Joye has a special place in our hearts. The obituary was written beautifully about her serious yet kind way. I really appreciate her kindnesses to me and the many lives she touched at Bald Knob School. She, and all of you, are very special people.



Margaret Davis - August 28, 2025 at 03:45 PM



“ Sheila Hulsey lit a candle in memory of Joye Carol Wright



Sheila Hulsey - August 28, 2025 at 01:27 AM

TF

“ The Taylor & Scott family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joye Carol Wright.

The Taylor & Scott family - August 27, 2025 at 11:17 PM

TF

“ *The Taylor & Scott family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joye Carol Wright.*



The Taylor & Scott family - August 27, 2025 at 11:17 PM

GO

“ *We enjoyed teaching with Joye for many years. Her girls were a treat to have in class. I know they are hurting but can have comfort in knowing where their mom is and knowing that they took care of her during her illness.*

George and Sandra Odom - August 27, 2025 at 11:07 PM

AV

“ *Alma Kelsey Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Joye Carol Wright*



Alma Kelsey Vaughn - August 27, 2025 at 10:54 PM

AV

Mrs Wright was a great teacher, always had a smile for you and later after school we shared star love she was a very special person that will be miss by many.

Alma Kelsey Vaughn - August 27, 2025 at 10:58 PM

TR

“ *What a beautiful tribute to your mom and her life! I have great respect for and fond memories of her as teacher and librarian at BK. She was always kind to me.*

Tammela Reichel - August 27, 2025 at 09:02 PM

SB

“ *Mrs. Wright was a favorite of mine and I know many others. She was a true educator during her time on our school campus. Praying and sending love to her special family* ❤️🙏

sherrie barrentine - August 27, 2025 at 06:45 PM

LB

“ *Leah Brooks lit a candle in memory of Joye Carol Wright*



Leah Brooks - August 27, 2025 at 06:42 PM

JF

“ *Sorry to hear of your family's great loss of your Mother. So thankful that I had Mrs. Wright as a teacher. She was a true teacher in every way. Jo Ann (Barrentine) Fish.*

Jo Ann Barrentine - Fish - August 27, 2025 at 05:38 PM

JS

“ *She was my very first teacher. I loved her even when she made me set down for chasing Mark around the table. My heart goes out to the family. Many prayers for all the hearts she touched.*

Jessica Arellano Snelson - August 27, 2025 at 05:23 PM

AF

“ *All the Gilstrap and Longshore families purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Joye Carol Wright.*



All the Gilstrap and Longshore families - August 27, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ *Some of my best memories are those working in the library with Joye and meeting and knowing her precious daughters. I will fbe forever grateful to Joye and her family for a special friendship. Love, Loretta*

Loretta Haskell - August 27, 2025 at 11:04 AM