



Mary Louella Cook

December 6, 1938 - October 29, 2025

Mary Louella (Wilson) Cook, 86, of Searcy, passed away on October 29, 2025, at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock. In a farmhouse built by her father, she was born on December 6, 1938, just outside of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, to the late John A. Wilson and Lola (Finley) Wilson.

Louella grew up as a farm girl in Cross County, Arkansas, where she learned the value of hard work and developed a love for sports, becoming a fierce high school basketball player. She graduated from Hickory Ridge High School in 1956, followed by enrollment to Harding College. Louella remained connected to the Harding community throughout her life.

As a young mother, she was devoted to her family and known as the “station wagon driver” to Friday night high school football games. She helped establish Searcy Girl’s Softball League, serving as a volunteer leader for over twenty-five years. Louella worked tirelessly raising her children, often employed at two or three jobs, while volunteering at the local school and at church. She was also a well-known substitute teacher in numerous local schools, demonstrating her adaptability and becoming beloved by the many students she taught. Louella earned her real estate license, achieving notable success through her reputation of integrity and grace. She later went on to work in administration at Harding University, where she regularly greeted students and faculty with a smile and friendly conversation. In 2019 she retired from

Harding at the age of 80 years.

Louella was a member of Downtown Church of Christ for 64 years before joining Searcy Church of Christ, where she attended for the last two years of her life. In her last year, she made a second home at Harding Place, where she greatly enjoyed friendships and laughter, and the competition of “bean bag baseball.”

She delighted in time spent with her grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She found satisfaction in her flower gardens, but experienced fulfillment in serving others. She will be remembered as kind, strong, selfless, and faithful. She was fiercely independent while loyally reliant upon God.

She is survived by her children, Paula Cowden (Doug) and Ronald Cook (Ann); grandchildren, Tucker Cowden (Abbie), Savannah King (Kalyn), John McKenzie Cook, and Caleb Cook; great granddaughter, Collins King; two brothers, Don Wilson and Bobby Joe Wilson (Carolyn); as well as a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family members who will dearly miss her presence.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sister, Loretta Volk and brother, Johnny H. Wilson.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Harding Place Christian Ministries, 801 S Benton, Searcy, AR 72143 in remembrance of Louella Cook.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025, from 2:30pm – 5:30pm, at Powell Funeral Home in Searcy. Funeral services will be conducted on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 11:00am, at Powell Funeral Home. Interment will follow at White County Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. www.powellfuneralhome.net

Cemetery Details

White County Memorial Gardens

Eastline Road and Park Avenue
Searcy, AR 72143

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 2. 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)
2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-7220
searcy@powellfuneralhome.net
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

NOV 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)
2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-7220
searcy@powellfuneralhome.net
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Interment

NOV 3 (CT)

White County Memorial Gardens
Eastline Road
Searcy, AR 72143

Tribute Wall

BF

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Louella's passing. I just saw the obituary this morning. I will be thinking of your family.

Barbara Finley - November 02, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ Paula, I'm so sorry you've lost your mom. I have many good memories of her during our softball-playing days. I will be in prayer for you all as you learn to live a life without her. We know we will see her again in glory, and I pray that is a great comfort to you.--
Kellie Person Burnett

Kellie Burnett - November 01, 2025 at 11:33 AM

ZM

“ My heart sank as Caleb told me about Mrs. Lou's passing. A flood of memories filled my mind and soul. She was a special lady. I always loved her smile and good nature. Paula and Ron, you are in my thoughts and prayers. I just wish I could bring you a pizza to share like the good ole days! Blessings to all of you!!

Zac Muncy

Zac Muncy - October 31, 2025 at 05:18 PM