



Wanda Emde

September 27, 1934 - November 3, 2023

On November 3rd, 2023, Wanda Emde, loving wife and mother, passed away at the home of her daughter's in Searcy. Wanda Mary Lou Munger was born to Elvin and Katy (White) Munger in McFadden, Arkansas on September 27, 1934.

Wanda was the eldest daughter of five siblings living in and around the Hickory Ridge area. While in the 9th grade she moved to Bald Knob and graduated from BK High School in 1952. Wanda married Billy Wayne Emde on December 26, 1952, after a week of dating; Billy was her mother's pick. They began married life in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where Bill was stationed while serving in the Navy. After Bill's term of service ended, they moved back home to Bald Knob, where Wanda spent the majority of her life. In fact, she spent 62yrs at her home on Collison St. Wanda spent the last eight years of her life in Searcy, most of which were as a resident at Harding Place.

Wanda and Bill's home was a source of encouragement and support for countless children and adults over the years. They were a team in almost everything they did. They both actively served their community and were involved in numerous clubs, committees, service projects and good works. They were on the board of the Shady Grove Cemetery and worked many hours for the betterment of the cemetery. Wanda epitomized a Christian homemaker. After raising their daughters, they opened their home to a Japanese exchange student and a teacher from Thailand, both of which resided with them for the duration of a school year. After their retirement they

enjoyed several Amtrak trips together.

Wanda was a girl scout in her youth, which in turn led her to serve as a girl scout leader for 50 years. During her years of service with the girl scouts Wanda received several awards and was inducted into the Ouachita Girl Scout Council "Hall of Fame". She was a charter member of the Bald Knob Extension Homemakers club that was founded in 1958. While being a part of Homemakers Wanda served in many offices and received numerous awards for her works. Wanda was awarded the "Citizen of Year" by the Bald Knob Chamber of Commerce in 1988.

Furthering her good works Wanda established three scholarships to help students in obtaining higher education. The "Billy Wayne Emde Scholarship" and "Class of 1952 Scholarship" at Bald Knob High School and the "Single Parent Scholarship" for people in White County.

She was very strong in her faith, attending the Bald Knob Church of Christ for over 68 years, where she taught bible class to children for generations.

Wanda was an avid collector of Santas, she spent 50 years and amassed around 1,658 over the course of those years. During the holiday season, she would display them all throughout her home and invite the community to tour her home to see the collection. When Wanda moved to Searcy she donated a majority of her Santa collection to Holiday of Lights in Searcy. They are displayed at the Carmichael Center during the holiday season. This year some Santas will also be displayed at the state capital. Wanda loved and enjoyed being called "The Santa Lady".

During the latter part of her life Wanda's eye site began to decline until she became completely blind. With the help of her loving husband Bill and her devoted sister, Elva, she was still able to continue with her many projects. Even with her limitation, Wanda was a lady of service.

Wanda is survived by two daughters: Kathy Lawson (Gary) and Joy Jernigan (Joe) all of Searcy. Grandchildren: Christian Lawson and Raelyn Wiirre (Nathan). Great-grandsons are Collin Lawson, Adam and Nicholas Wiirre. A sister Elva Harper (who lived with and helped her after Bill passed away) and

a brother, Samuel Munger. As well as nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends that she loved dearly.

In addition to her parents, Wanda was preceded in death by Billy Emde, her husband of 57 years, granddaughter in-law Lisa Lawson, great grandson Ryder Lawson, her brothers W.C. "Dub" and George Munger.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Powell Funeral Home Chapel in Bald Knob with Gary Lawson and Jason Henley officiating. Interment will follow in the Shady Grove Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob – Judsonia. www.powellfuneralhome.net.

In lieu of flowers. We ask that donations be made to the Shady Grove Cemetery, P.O. Box 1365, Bald Knob, AR 72010

Cemetery Details

Shady Grove Cemetery

Bald Knob Lake Road
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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

NOV 8. 10:00 AM (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/>

Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Wanda Emde



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 04, 2023 at 03:35 PM

DH

Her and her husband was always contributing to the Bald Knob area their whole life. In their healthy days they set the example of what Christians are to be like in the community and the Church. They were that past generation that was looked up to. 🙏🙏 for the family.

Danny Harden - November 04, 2023 at 05:17 PM

DB

Kathy, we're so sorry to hear about your mother. What a wonderful tribute to her. I can tell she was loved and that she was a faithful christian. May God comfort you all at this time. 🙏❤️

Debbie Billingsley - November 05, 2023 at 05:20 PM

SS

I have Great memories of Ms Wanda. I made a comment one day at church "I would like to have a dress like that girl". Ms Wanda said "get the pattern and material and come to the house and we will make you a dress" and that's what she did. I stayed at her house all day. She fed me and let me watch tv and at the end of the day I had a dress that I loved. I will always remember that day and what a great Christian lady she was. ❤️🙏 Sheila Davis Simpson

sheila davis simpson - November 07, 2023 at 08:07 PM

BD

“ Condolences to all of you,,,,,Mrs. Wanda was an unique person and I am so thankful to have known her while growing up. May God Bless you and comfort you in the days to come.

Brenda Heard Davidson - November 07, 2023 at 09:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Emde.



November 06, 2023 at 02:43 PM

DK

“ Seems like Wanda was in my life from a very early age. I remember spending time with Aunt Katy in the summer and going to Wanda's class and her Bringing Kathy and Joy over to play with us. She was a wonderful person and cousin. The world will be a sadder place without her. Y'all are in my prayers at this time. Love you all, Debra White Kirk

Debra Kirk - November 06, 2023 at 01:28 PM

MD

“ I will always love the special memories of “Mrs Emde”, as Girl Scout leader and special lady. She taught us so much and really made me think. Kathy and Joy, I am so sorry for this sad time. I know you have lots of memories to cherish and give you comfort. My prayers are for you and the family and may your mother rest in peace.



Margaret Davis - November 05, 2023 at 08:08 PM

RS

“ Kathy and Joy, I am so very sorry for your loss. I loved your mom and dad. Mrs. Wanda was my Girl Scout leader and she made my wedding dress almost 45 years ago. She was such a talented lady who loved well. Im praying for you during this difficult time. Much love to your family.

Renee Stevens - November 04, 2023 at 08:21 PM

MH

“ I was in here Girl Scout trip Mandy years ago and learned so much from this great lady

Mandy Hendrx - November 04, 2023 at 07:38 PM