



Willie Jean (Edwards) Cantrell

October 2, 1935 - September 28, 2022

Mrs. Willie Jean Cantrell entered her Heavenly home on September 28, 2022, undoubtedly greeted by her Savior Jesus Christ and her beloved husband Claude and their precious daughter Debbie. She was born on October 2, 1935, in Bald Knob to Lewis Edwards and Nell Edwards Ethridge. A blind date with a handsome Korean War Veteran developed into the love of a lifetime with Claude Cantrell, whom she married in August 1955, and who preceded her in death in 2016.

Willie Jean graduated from Bald Knob Public Schools in 1954, and she trained to file taxes and became a notary public even as she ran the Hurricane Sports Center, farmed with her children in tow, and aided her husband in saw mill labor with the grit and determination that she inherited from her mother.

Willie Jean was a devoted Christian first and foremost, serving others countless meals and genuinely loving anyone whom she encountered, regardless of whether it was at church or the grocery store and despite any wealth or lack thereof. Her hands were seldom still as she gave generously to others.

A dedicated wife and treasured mother, Willie Jean nurtured her family with grace and conviction. She loved her children and grieved horribly at the death of her firstborn, a daughter, Debbie Cantrell. Willie Jean leaves two cherished

sons Ricky S. (Cherry) Cantrell and Randy Cantrell of Bald Knob as well as an honorary son Carroll Varnell of Bald Knob. Willie Jean especially loved the title Nanny and leaves four dear grandsons: Chord (Bethany) Cantrell of Searcy; Tyler (Kelsey) Cantrell of Russellville; and Joshua S. Cantrell and AJ Cantrell of Bald Knob. Willie Jean also leaves behind her lifetime best friend, her sister Mary Lou Meyer of Joplin, MO, who is the last of the siblings due to the prior death of brother Bobby Edwards.

Navigating life with her gentle spirit, Willie Jean's smiles and hugs made others leave her presence feeling better about life. She lived her life in such a way that her sons and grandsons inherit a legacy of love and hard work. "Her children arise and call her blessed." Proverbs 31:28.

Services will be at Powell Funeral Home in Bald Knob with interment to follow at Carter Cemetery in Russell. Visitation is scheduled for 6:00-8:00 p.m. September 30 with the funeral at 10:00 a.m. October 1. In lieu of flowers, monetary donations can be made to Worden Baptist Church of Bald Knob.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob - Judsonia.
www.powellfuneralhome.net

Cemetery Details

Carter Cemetery

Russell, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 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

OCT 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Willie Jean (Edwards) Cantrell



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 30, 2022 at 12:02 PM

TC

“ My condolences to the family. She was a very sweet lady & friend of the family. She'll be missed. I want make it to the services I've got COVID. Your in my prayers 🙏 Teresa Cloyes



Teresa Cloyes - October 01, 2022 at 11:07 AM

JB

“ “Aunt” Willie Jean was one of the sweetest persons in my childhood. My brother Dallas and I would walk 3 miles just to able to be able to talk to her and get a hug at her store. She always went out of her way to make us feel loved when we were anywhere near her. And that didn't stop with just me and him. When I worked at their sawmill, she sat everyone down at the family table to eat lunch as a family. I got to visit with her recently in her front yard, and she was the same loving Aunt Willie Jean to me as a 50 year old man like she was to that 7 year old kid that come to get a hug. The world has lost a wonderful soul when it lost her.

Jesse Boyce - October 01, 2022 at 08:49 AM

JW

“ *Jim Dixie Laura Matthew Samantha Wallace purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Willie Jean (Edwards) Cantrell.*



Jim Dixie Laura Matthew Samantha Wallace - September 30, 2022 at 10:08 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Jean (Edwards) Cantrell.*



September 29, 2022 at 06:19 PM

GD

“ *She was such a sweet lady. My prayers for comfort and peace extends to her family*

Glenda R Downs - September 29, 2022 at 02:22 PM

GO

“ *Mrs Cantrell fought a good fight and now she is reaping the benefits. She was a great example and she raised a family that made her proud.*

George and Sandra Odom

George and Sandra Odom - September 29, 2022 at 01:45 PM

FF

“ *From Bill Elliott and Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Willie Jean (Edwards) Cantrell.*



From Bill Elliott and Family - September 29, 2022 at 12:19 PM