



Mary Kirchhoff

September 6, 1924 - November 27, 2021

Mary Adelle Kirchhoff (Thomas), 97 of Higginsville, Missouri met her Heavenly Father on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at Meyer Care Center surrounded by her family.

She was born Saturday, September 6, 1924 in Peoria, Illinois. She was the daughter of the late Burl Thomas and the late Mary Thomas (Reynolds). She graduated from Woodruff High School in Peoria. She received her Bachelors of Science in Education from Missouri Valley in Marshall, Missouri and earned her Master's in Education from CMSU in Warrensburg. Mary began teaching in Blackburn, Missouri in 1945. She later taught in Concordia, Corder, Higginsville, and Lexington until her retirement in 1989. She married Wilbert Kirchhoff on April 18, 1947 and they spent 64 years together until his passing on January 24, 2011. Mary and Wilbert moved to Higginsville in 1954. Mary stayed home after the birth of each of her four children, but always returned to teaching when they were a little older.

She was a member of Salem United Church of Christ in Higginsville and very active with church organizations. She taught bible school, was involved with Youth on Mission, member of the women's quilting guild, and enjoyed the women's fellowship circles. She took over managing the food pantry at Salem in 1996 and passed the gavel on in 2005. In 2015, Mary was recognized by the Higginsville Rotary for her years as manager of the food pantry.

Mary enjoyed reading, gardening, cooking, baking, canning, watching all sports on TV, embroidery and quilting. She would often be found in the hallway outside of her room at Meyer Care Center working on a quilt and enjoyed explaining the lost art of hand quilting to those passing by. She and Wilbert loved dancing together and going fishing every Monday at Sterett Creek in Warsaw, Missouri. She loved people, she loved to talk, and loved socializing with friends. Mary was intelligent and sharp, never straying too far from a large book and crossword puzzle. She was an amazing baker and cook, always trying new recipes. There was never a shortage of cookies in Mary's home.

Mary enjoyed spending time with family and especially loved seeing her grandkids. Her unique spunk will be missed by so many. Memories of Mary will be cherished forever.

Surviving are three sons, Rodney (Ricki) Kirchhoff of Hallsville, MO, Eric (Gail) Kirchhoff of Higginsville, Jeff (Denise) Kirchhoff of Higginsville; one daughter, Kathleen (Dave)

Gallagher of Odessa, MO; one sister, Margaret Collier of De Kalb, IL; grandchildren, Ryan (Julie) Kirchhoff, Reid Kirchhoff, Jeremy (Heather) Kirchhoff, Caleb (Dani) Kirchhoff, Crystal (Jared) Sheets, Aimee (Dylan) Meyer, Kali (Jon) Rechterman, Jessica (James) Pratt, Justin Reider (Trisha), Cammi (Brent) Martin, Cory Gallagher (Rachel); great-grandchildren, Brayden, Madisyn, Allison, Laith, Layden, Lawson, Jocelyn, Brynlee, Easton, Creyton, Maclyn, Kai, Zoey, Gunner, Jackson, Hurley, Hayden, Abby, Micah, Brooklyn, Christofer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Wilbert Kirchhoff.

A celebration of life social will be held from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at the American Legion Hall 1001 W. 22nd St. Higginsville, Missouri. A graveside service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday in the City Cemetery with Rev. Dr. Tommy Faris officiating. Memorial contributions may be made out to Family Choice and the family will distribute them to organizations in Mary's honor.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home and online condolences may be made to the family at www.stewarthoeferfuneralhome.com

Cemetery

City Cemetery

2275-2491 Lipper Ave.
Higginsville, MO, 64037

Events

DEC 11 **Celebration of Life Social** 10:00AM - 01:00PM

American Legion
1001 W. 22nd St., Higginsville, MO, US, 64037

DEC 11 **Graveside Service** 03:00PM

City Cemetery
2275-2491 Lipper Ave., Higginsville, MO, US, 64037

Comments



“ My condolences to family and friends. My opinion of her has not changed over time... This lady was a very good teacher who to me made learning fun. I'm glad to see other students felt good about her too.

Pete Wilkerson - January 10 at 10:49 PM



“ Mary was my 3rd grade teacher and then I had the pleasure of knowing her at Meyer care center, she was my favorite resident, she will be missed.

Sandra Fiene - December 12, 2021 at 12:28 AM



“ My condolences to Mrs. Kirchhoff's family. Like Greg Hulver, I was in Mrs. Kirchhoff's third grade class at Leslie Bell Elementary, although a few years earlier. Like Greg, I had a special seat--she placed my desk beside hers to help me stay out of trouble. I'm sure she influenced my decision to become an elementary teacher and principal for the past 44 years. I started my career as a third grade teacher. I have used examples of Mary's teaching throughout my career--just last week (before I heard about Mary's passing) I told one of our students about how I'd benefited from the special seat assigned to me by Mrs. Kirchhoff. My mom taught with Mary for many years, always spoke highly of her, and considered her a lifelong friend.

Mike Coulter

Mike Coulter - December 11, 2021 at 07:42 PM



“ “Mrs. Kirchhoff” was my third grade teacher at Concordia. I have to say that she was my favorite teacher in elementary school...she was so kind and caring. My condolences to her family.

Judy (Beissenherz) Matthews - December 11, 2021 at 08:45 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Kirchhoff.



December 09, 2021 at 11:55 PM



“ To the Family,

Your Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma was my all time most favorite teacher ever. 3rd grade at Leslie Bell Elementary in Lexington, MO. When I was younger, I thought she had me sitting at the front of the class because I was her 'teachers pet'. It was later in life that I realized she had me there to keep me in line. Funny how that works. Every time I got to see her, I always told her that she was my most favorite teacher ever!!! Good work Ms. Kirchhoff. Job well done. I got the lesson... Greg Hulver.

Greg Hulver - December 09, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Mary Kirchhoff. It was a pleasure knowing Mary. She was a kind and thoughtful lady. On the occasion when we would cross paths, she always had time to catch up and talk. She gave me great gardening advice too. She had a beautiful smile and always made you feel she was glad to see you. She will be missed.

My deepest sympathy

Brenda Schneider - December 05, 2021 at 10:55 PM



“ My condolences to all of Mary's family. She was so fun to know and I have said that she gave my family extra months with our mom because Mary got mom to eat when we couldn't. I often would go by and visit with Mary after mom had gone to sleep. She was usually busy doing something with her hands. I hated not being able to visit with her during the pandemic but did visit with her through the window a couple of times. I was so sorry to hear of her passing. You are all in my prayers as you adjust to life without her.

Terresa Stoll - December 04, 2021 at 12:40 AM



“ To all of Mary,s kids we are sorry for your loss of Mary. She will be missed by many..I always enjoyed my talk with her as i went by her room. She played cards with Mary Lou as long as she could. God Bless you all. Mary Lou and Leland Buckler

t

Leland Buckler - December 01, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. May God be with you all.



Linda McGuire - December 01, 2021 at 04:40 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. May God be with you all as you go forward.

Linda McGuire - December 01, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ Linda McGuire lit a candle in memory of Mary Kirchhoff



Linda McGuire - December 01, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ My deepest and sincerest if sympathies go out to the family. I saw first hand the love the family had for her. I hope the well wishes and warm thoughts comfort you in this time of grief.

Matthew Cushman

Matthew Cushman - December 01, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ Mary was a gem and lived such a long wonderful life! She and WW were favorites of mine and so proud of their family. She was witty, talented in so many crafts, and so kind to others. My thoughts are with your family as you honor her life.

Marla Tobin, MD - November 30, 2021 at 09:10 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of Mary! She was one of those people that makes an impression. I loved her spunk, intelligence and straightforward manner. She was a lady through and through and I'm a better person for having known her. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Miranda Fiene - November 30, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. "Aunt" Mary was one of the most energetic people I knew. She was always very kind to me and incredibly smart. I have lots of memories, but I especially got a kick out of her sassy way of dealing with my dad. She was never afraid to tell him just where she stood on things and I admired her all the more for it. She'll forever remain in my heart and will be greatly missed.

Deana Aversman - November 30, 2021 at 08:23 PM