



Jo Shafer

January 5, 1937 - March 11, 2025

Josephine Ann "Jo" Shafer (Robertson), 88 of Higginsville, Missouri tragically passed away on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in a house fire. Jo was born on Tuesday, January 5, 1937 in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, to Jasper Robertson and Pearl (Walker) Robertson.

Jo was a graduate of Butler, MO High School. Shortly after graduating, she married William "Bill" Oscar Shafer. The couple shortly later relocated to Higginsville, due to Bill accepting a job transfer with Mattingly's. Jo was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Higginsville where she was a Sunday School teacher, an elder and a deacon. She was a Preceptor for Delta Psi of Beta Sigma Phi, member of the local Optimist Club and the Red Hat Society. Jo was a housewife while her children were younger and then she worked at the Higginsville High School in the cafeteria. Jo was also a local office manager and was a typist for the Higginsville Advance. Jo and Bill loved to vacation in the winters to the Gulf Shores, Alabama. She enjoyed creating scrapbooks for all of her grandchildren from birth until 21 years of age. She also liked to sew, paint, upholster and was very artistic. She loved to cook Sunday meals for her family every week.

Even at 88 years old, she was still donating blood to local blood banks and recently donated her 121st pint of blood. Jo's passion for her family, friends and helping others will never be forgotten.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; brothers, Robert Dean (Loreatha) Robertson, Wallace "Bud" (Lenora) Roberson; sister

Margaret Barber; son, David Shafer; and grandson, Derek Gillilan. Surviving are daughters, Sheri (Randy) Lovercamp, Pam (Robert) Gillilan; daughter-in-law, Deanna Shafer; brother William Robertson; sister, Hazel (Bill) Davidson; grandchildren, Rachael (Eric) Meyers, Emma Gillilan, Zachery (Julia) Gillilan, Samantha (Ernie) Tibai, Glenna (Garrat) Wilson, Ryan (Jennifer) Shafer, Matthew (Kaisee) Lovercamp; great-grandchildren, Brady Meyers, Jason Meyers, Kinley Gillilan, Grace Gillilan, Derek Gillilan, Wesley (Ariana) Tibai, Emmett Tibai, Anderson Tibai, Wrenly Shafer, Andee Lovercamp, Owen Lovercamp, Kaden Wilson (Brooke Young), Gillian (Carson) Blackburn; great-great-grandchildren, Denver Wilson, Warren Blackburn and Lyla Blackburn. The family will receive friends from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church, Higginsville, Missouri. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, March 17, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church. Interment will be in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Higginsville, MO where she will be placed beside her husband, Bill. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Derek William Gillilan Memorial Scholarship.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery

20109 Business Highway 13
Higginsville, MO 64037
<http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

First Presbyterian Church
111 Fairground Ave.
Higginsville, MO 64037
<http://www.pcusa.org>

Memorial Service

MAR 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

First Presbyterian Church
111 Fairground Ave.
Higginsville, MO 64037
<http://www.pcusa.org>

Columbarium wall inurnment

MAR 17. 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM (cst)

Missouri Veterans Cemetery
20109 Business Highway 13
Higginsville, MO 64037
<http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov>

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Sincerest condolences on the tragic loss of such a sweet mother, grandmother and distant family member. Sending prayers for the family to know that she is at peace in a better place. God has welcomed two new angels into heaven. The Shafers have always had a special place in my family’s heart as “double cousins” on our family tree. May God bless Jo and speed her to heaven on angel’s wings. Her son was a true hero as he tried to save his mother. Blessings to all the family.
Deb Bentlage



Deb Bentlage - March 17, 2025 at 06:07 PM

LP

“ I not only worked with Jo at the newspaper, I worked with Sheri there as well. I really enjoyed working with Jo, she wasn’t just a co-worker, she was a friend and will be missed. I’m so sorry for her family’s loss and will continue to pray.



Laurie Payne - March 17, 2025 at 04:40 PM

JU

“ Jo will be sadly missed by all . I worked with her at the Higginsville Advance and we were in the local Optimist Club for many years with her. A great lady indeed!
Jim & Cathy Urfer

Jim & Cathy Urfer - March 17, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KH

“ Sending heartfelt sympathy to the Shafer family and friends.
Karel Bentlage Hippert

Karel Bentlage Hippert - March 17, 2025 at 09:21 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo Shafer.



March 16, 2025 at 10:55 AM



“ I was baptized with Jo at the Christian Church in Butler Mo. I was best friends with her sister Hazel. We played many a Monopoly game on their front porch. They lived on Wilson Street in Butler in the 50's. I remember when she met her husband Bill who was manager of Mattingly's. I think she worked there also. I never met David. I have not been back to Butler since 1983. I sure miss it.

Patricia Carter - March 14, 2025 at 11:43 PM

TD

“ So sorry for the passing of Jo she was an amazing women.
Tammy Schaller Durfee

Tammy Durfee - March 14, 2025 at 06:26 PM