



Mary Lea Wright

November 11, 1927 - May 31, 2020

Mary Lea Nitcher was born in Pomona, Kansas November 11, 1927, the daughter of Ray L Nitcher and Buena Vista (Abshire) Nitcher. The family moved to Uniontown, Kansas in March of 1938, where her father accepted the pastorate of the Missionary Baptist Church of Uniontown and the Dry Ridge Baptist Church.

Mary Lea completed grades 6 through 11 in Uniontown, then taught a one-room rural school, Osage Valley, while finishing up the 12th grade. This was during World War II when teachers were desperately needed. After graduation, Mary Lea attended Ft. Scott Junior College and continued teaching.

Mary Lea accepted Jesus as her Saviour at eleven years of age and was baptized in Ottawa, Kansas.

It was after Mary Lea's parents moved to Bronson, Kansas that she met a handsome young lieutenant from the Air Force, who had just returned home after the war. After a brief courtship, they were married August 25, 1946. To this union were born two sons, Terry Eugene Wright and Brent J. Wright. Also a daughter, Janelle Elaine Wright. They made their home in Bronson where her husband and his father, E.H. Wright, were engaged in the Bronson Grain elevator.

In 1951, Gerald was recalled into action because of the Korean conflict. They spent eighteen months serving in Fair Oaks, California, San Antonio, Texas and Riverside, California.

Mary Lea returned to Bronson with her husband and sons in 1952. Janelle was born in 1955 and when Janelle was eight months old, the Wrights purchased the Lola Milling Company and moved to Lola and have resided there since that time.

Mary Lea loved the Lord, her family and life. At one time, she was active in the Sorosis Club and Music Club. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church for 45 years,

teaching Sunday School and directing the church choir, as well as helping with the women's work, funeral dinners, etc. Mary Lea has been attending the Iola Baptist Temple since 1989. She loved caring for her home and gardening. She was an avid seamstress, making many dresses for her six granddaughters as well as concentrating on quilting in later years, finishing a quilt for each of her eleven grandchildren. She was always excited for family to come and anxious to prepare the food she thought they would enjoy. Christmas Eve dinner and Christmas morning breakfast were planned for days in advance and were always so special to her.

Mary Lea was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Ray Nitcher, her mother and father-in-law, E. H. & Nona Wright, her husband, Gerald Lormor Wright, her brother, Max Nitcher, her sister, Carol Nitcher Shoaf, her daughter-in-law, Claudette Olive Wright, a great granddaughter, Claudette Elliott, two grandsons-in-law, Philip Groner & Dustin Elliott.

Mary Lea is survived by her three children, Terry & Karen Horsell Wright (Overland Park, KS), Brent & Janet Wright (Ottawa, KS) & Janelle & Dennis Kershner (Iola, KS), brothers, Raymond Nitcher (Little Rock, AR) and Rowland Nitcher (Lubbock, TX); 11 grandchildren, Allyson Wright Groner (Clive, IA), Annye Wright Howell (Paul) (Overland Park, KS), Jacob Wright (Atlanta, GA), John Wright (Hilary) (Broomfield, CO), Todd Wright (Catherine) (Ottawa, KS), Audra Wright Sherman (Ryan) (Boise, ID), Alyvia Wright Elliott (Kansas City, MO), Joshua Wright (Shawna) (Moscow, ID), Aryn Lea Wright (Boise, ID), Cahlea Rose Crawford Drescher (Tyler) (Augusta, KS), and Zachary Crawford (Ft. Scott, KS), 2 step-granddaughters, Kayle Fleenor (Sam), Spring Hill, KS and Hannah O'Keefe (Andy), Bucyrus, KS. She is also survived by 16 great-grandchildren and 9 step-great-grandchildren.

Mary Lea left the family with an important note that she will look forward to meeting all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in heaven as well as seeing her dad and mother and husband, as she knows they are there but that she longs to see the Saviour most of all.

Visitation for Mary Lea will be held Friday morning, June 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church, 1608 Oregon Road, Iola, Kansas with services to follow at 11:00 a.m. Memorials may be made to Iola Baptist Temple and may be left with the funeral home. Condolences for the family may be left online at www.feuerbornfuneral.com.

Cemetery

Highland Cemetery (Allen County)

1800 N. Cottonwood
Iola, KS, 66749

Events

JUN 5 Visitation with Family Present 10:00AM - 11:00AM

First Christian Church - Iola
1608 Oregon Rd, Iola, KS, US, 66749

JUN 5 Celebration of Life 11:00AM - 11:30AM

First Christian Church - Iola
1608 Oregon Rd, Iola, KS, US, 66749

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Feuerborn Family Funeral Service - June 04, 2020 at 05:15 PM



“ Mary Lea was a beautiful and wonderful Christian lady, and loved by all who knew her. She was a hard worker and eager volunteer. She will certainly be missed. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends Love, Jeanice & Maynard Cress

Jeanice & Maynard Cress - June 07, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ She was a beautiful lady. I feel blessed to have known her. All her family are in my thoughts and prayers. Lots of Love, Lavon Johnson.

Lavon Johnson - June 05, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ Our first memory of Mary Lea was when we moved 2 houses south of Mary Lea from North Dakota. She welcomed us to town and the neighborhood with a plate of fresh baked cinnamon rolls. They were fantastic. She made us feel a part of the community. Our son Matt mowed her lawn until he graduated from high school and moved away for college. I remember her outside watering her plants and would stop sometimes to visit when I went on my morning walks. What a wonderful neighbor to have but most important was her faith and her bold witness that she believed in Jesus and looked forward to her heavenly home. Now she has her crown of life. I look forward to our great reunion with all our friends and family of believers to share eternity in heaven with Jesus. May that same Jesus who lived, died, and rose again for all people overwhelm you with His peace and comfort.
Bruce and Kim Kristalyn

Kim Kristalyn - June 05, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ Mary Lea & Jerry were so special. My parents spoke of them often. Both couples married in 1946, right after the boys came home from World War II. Mom & Dad lived in the Bronson Hotel and your parents lived east in Dawson's big house. Mom always mentioned she remembered seeing Jerry hanging diapers on the clothes line. She thought that was sweet.

Dad worked at the Wade Motor Company just across the street from the elevator. It burned down in October, 1953 and Dad had to find another job. There were many memories between 1946 & 1955 when they moved out to the lease house. I arrived in 1958.

I too have many wonderful memories of your parents all thru my early years. I too remember Nona. The video brought back a lot of happy thoughts. I always remember her sweet smile and everlasting grace. I'd forgotten she was so short. As a little kid Jerry always seemed really tall to me! I can't recall exactly when we all last visited, sometime in the late 1980's

The years have flown by all of us grew up. I would not been able to pick Terry & Brent out of a crowd. Jan I have seen in person the last few years. I know the two newlywed couples are seeing one another again in Heaven.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Betty Hyatt Pierson
Emporia



Betty Pierson - June 04, 2020 at 09:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 04, 2020 at 12:59 PM



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



June 04, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 03, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ Sounds like an amazing woman with truly a full life who sounds like she would definitely be in Heaven one day, right from the start! I know some of her sweet family and they are beautiful people inside and out like she is described.....So sorry for your families loss of her here on earth but she will always be with you in a different way. Many prayers coming your way!

Lisa Marek - June 03, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ A truly beautiful Christian lady! I always admired her grace and beauty! She always spoke to me and always had that beautiful smile! So sorry for your loss, but know she was greeted by her Lord and now is peacefully awaiting the rest of her amazing family! God's blessing to all!

Judy Baker - June 03, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ What a beautiful woman, inside and out. She was always so gracious and kind. My deepest sympathy for your loss, Jan.

Robyn Porter - June 02, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ Jan, sorry to hear about your mom. She was a lovely lady just like you. May the Lord comfort you. Debby Daniels

Debby Daniels - June 02, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ The Jason Phinney & Steven Smith families purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



The Jason Phinney & Steven Smith families - June 02, 2020 at 07:10 PM



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



June 02, 2020 at 05:59 PM



“ I received a note from her, she was expecting to return to our church services in the next 2 weeks. I know she is happily at home with our Lord Jesus, as we all expect to be when it is our time. We will hold all memories of her close to our hearts.

Sally Riley - June 02, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 02, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Your Park Woods Presbyterian Church Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



Your Park Woods Presbyterian Church Family - June 02, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 02, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 02, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ Mary Lea was a beautiful, sweet lady with a loving smile for everyone she met. Her family loved her deeply, as she did them and will miss her daily. If it's any consolation for the ones of us left on earth, she is where she longed to be with her family that went before her and her Lord and Savior. Our deepest sympathy and love to all of the Wright family,
Kathy and Paul Flaherty



Paul and Kathy Flaherty - June 02, 2020 at 04:46 PM



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



June 02, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ She was such a sweet lady. Went to church with her. She will be missed by all but she is at home in Heaven with her Lord and Savior now.

Melissa - June 02, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ Terry I'm so sorry to hear about your mother passing she is now resting in peace may god Be with you and your family you are all in my prays always remember the good times you Had with her



Lorraine Butler - June 02, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 02, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ Ken Corbett Farms/Grower Network purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



Ken Corbett Farms/Grower Network - June 02, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ To Jan, her sons and other family members. You were so blessed to have such a wonderful person in your life as I was. Mary Lea was special. She radiated her Godly spirit to everyone that came in contact with her. Her father married my husband and I seventy years ago on June the first. He was a great man and Mary Lea's mother was also a wonderful person. My heart goes out to all of you in your loss. I will be thinking of you on Friday. God be with all of you! Love, Retabess Ling

Retabess Ling - June 02, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ Manny and Doris Newell and Cliff and Kim LeMaster purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



Manny and Doris Newell and Cliff and Kim LeMaster - June 02, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ Marlene Morgan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Lea Wright



marlene morgan - June 02, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ So sad for all of you. We will miss her in this small town. She was a guiding light for the Lord. Prayers for family and friends.



Sharyl Zajic - June 02, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“
Jan Kershner - June 09, 2020 at 08:23 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 02, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ I can't remember life without Mary Lea. Her father, Rev Ray Nitcher baptized me in the building on the corner of Monroe and 4th in lola in the early 1960's . I am quite sure that Mary Lea was my 5th grade Sunday School teacher at 1st Baptist Church downtown. It was well worth the climb to the 3rd floor to the Junior Department. I'm pretty sure she led Junior Choir and helped us learn parts. She later led the adult choir at the Cottonwood location. Talented lady. Kind, Compassionate and full of the love of Jesus. And quick to share it. And then she left treasures we knew as her children and grandchildren that are awesome. When my Mom moved to lola in 2002 Mary Lea would visit often. It wasn't long after my Mom passed in 2015 that Mary Lea stood beside me and held my hand while she viewed Mom's casket. What a comfort she was to so many. As Dolly once wrote " When God sees her coming, heaven's choir will smile. Lord she's an angel, let her fly". Joe Compton

Joseph Compton - June 02, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ you've been so special through all this, Joe. My mother loved Elizabeth and all of you!
Thank you for so you have done

Jan Kershner - June 09, 2020 at 08:25 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mary Lea Wright.



June 02, 2020 at 12:28 PM



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



June 02, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ Mary lea impacted my life because of the love she showed for her Lord, and for those that serve in sharing His love with others. I met her many years ago at lola Baptist Temple the same church i last spoke with here at just a few months ago. Her last words to me, "i sure love my preacher and his family".

Cynthia Randall Hassenger - June 02, 2020 at 10:37 AM

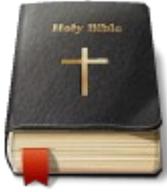


“ thank you, Cynthia

Jan Kershner - June 09, 2020 at 08:26 AM



“ Phyllis Nelson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Lea Wright



Phyllis Nelson - June 02, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ My heart goes out to all of Mary Lea's children and grandchildren... She was a special lady who lived her faith and made a difference in so many lives. She wrote me a sweet note at the time of my mother's passing, which I will now share with you, Jan. You have been a faithful and loving daughter. Now enjoy God's peace as you lay your mother to rest.

Jane Barnett - June 03, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ Condolences to the family. Mary Lea was a beautiful woman, inside and out. She was a mentor to me in my Christian walk. I look forward to seeing her in heaven one day. I am praying for comfort and peace for her family.

Sharon Shields Rohlmeier - June 03, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ thank you so much, Jane and Sharon. My memories of the both of you center around the old Baptist church. Thank you so much for writing

Jan Kershner - June 09, 2020 at 08:27 AM