



Harlene Ray Esther

December 30, 1932 - November 14, 2024

Harlene Ray Esther 91 of Bolivar, Missouri, passed away on Thursday November 14, 2024, at CMH. She was born December 30, 1932, in Bolivar to Harold and Elva Stewart. She graduated from Bolivar High School in 1951. They were the Tigers back then. She went to Southwest Missouri State for one semester and then transferred to Southwest Baptist College when her father passed away. While going to school she helped her mother in the license bureau.

She married Robert Johnson in 1955 and into this union a daughter Roberta (Johnson) Doke in 1959. Harlene took over the license bureau after her mother passed away in 1971. She went to work at Southwest Baptist University in 1975 when the political party changed in 1974.

On March 11, 1988, Harlene married Dean Esther. They resided in Pleasant Hope until 1995, when they moved back to Bolivar. They enjoyed taking trips and going to Missouri Fox Trotter horse shows.

After she retired from Southwest Baptist University in 1994, she enjoyed taking care of her grandkids and going to their ballgames. She volunteered at the Polk County Museum and took an active part in the Historical Society.

Harlene is preceded in death by her parents Harold (Harley) and Elva Stewart, husband Dean Esther, Sister Ernestine Kinsey and husband Woodrow,

stepson Arthur Esther.

Surviving is daughter Roberta (Johnson) Doke and husband Jim of Brighton, Missouri; one Nephew Tim Kinsey and wife Cindy of Wilmington North Carolina; two nieces Sharon Black and husband Joe of Hillsboro, Oregon and Cindy Goefft and husband Mike of San Anselmo, California; Step-daughter Deanna Burns of Bolivar, Missouri; Step-son Robert Esther and wife Zanita of Springfield, Missouri; Sister In-law Janet Esther of Lebanon, Missouri; Step-daughter in-law Buena Esther of St. Louis, Missouri; four grandchildren: Jamie Crocker of Wellington, Florida Jennifer Byrne husband Barry of Bolivar, Missouri, Jay Robert Doke of Brighton, Missouri, Stacey (Burns) Yoakum of Dixon, Mo.; Step-Grandchildren Hillary (Esther) Lord and husband Micheal of St. Louis, Missouri; Amber Timmerman and husband Mark of Halfway, Missouri; Audrey Esther of St. Louis, MO; Adam Arnold of Springfield, Missouri; Michael Esther of Springfield, Missouri; Kelsey Esther of Springfield, Missouri. Great Grandchildren John and Cash Crocker of Wellington Florida, Anna and Charlie Byrne of Bolivar, Missouri, Tyson Reathaford of Dixon, Missouri and many other step-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Also, one Grand dog Marley Raye Doke.

Services for Harlene will be held at Butler Funeral Home on Monday, November 18, 2024, starting at 11:00 AM. Visitation will be held an hour prior on Monday, starting at 10:00 AM.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Bolivar.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

KS

“ I’ve known Harleen my entire life. She and I were best friends, starting at the First Baptist Church where we met prior to grade school. We continued our friendship throughout grade school, high school and two years at Southwest Baptist College. When we were young we would make fudge together every Sunday at my house. After I got married and moved away from Bolivar, we always kept in touch. Whenever I came back to visit, Harleen would always offer for me to stay at her place. Harleen was a sweet and kind lady, and I cherished our friendship. She will be missed,
Love, Mary Sue (Gist) Sickafus.

Karl Sickafus - November 19, 2024 at 12:57 PM

AL

“ Sorry for your loss, she has been a friend of mine for 50 years.



Arlene Lear - November 17, 2024 at 11:37 PM

LL

“ We were so sorry to hear about Harlene.....she was a neat lady and loved seeing and being around her.....she was a great neighbor too.....you are in our thought and prayers!!

Lena Lipe - November 16, 2024 at 05:00 PM

SB

“ Aunt Harlene has always been a kind and wonderful woman in my life. She will always have a large and meaningful place in my heart.
Sharon Black

Sharon Black - November 16, 2024 at 01:35 PM

JA

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Harlene. I had known her about as long as anyone that I can recall. We worked together at Southwest Baptist University for several years. She was always a family friend. Please know that your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Jerald Andrews - November 15, 2024 at 02:16 PM