



## Lena Ellis

October 3, 1914 - November 9, 2015

Lena Watkins Ellis

Lena Ellis, age 101, of Bolivar, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 9, 2015.

Funeral: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 at Butler Funeral Home, Bolivar, Mo. Interment will follow at Barren Creek Cemetery. Visitation: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 at Butler Funeral Home.

Lena was born on October 3, 1914, near Fair Play to Finis and Ella (Phillips) Watkins. She earned dual degrees in Business Education and Home Economics from Missouri State. Lena married William (Bill) Ellis in 1947 and together they taught in high schools in Golden City, Louisiana, and St. Charles, Mo. Upon retirement they settled near family in Bolivar, having built the home Lena loved. Lena was a life-long Baptist.

Lena was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; her brothers Orville and Floyd Watkins; and her sisters-in-law Luella Cox and Pauline Watkins.

Survivors include her nephews, John (Janet) of Fort Worth, TX and Steve (Jill) Cox of Springfield and their families; her second cousin and caregiver, Sharon

Garretson of Bolivar and family; her sisters-in-law Louise and Aileene Ellis of Springfield; her brother-in-law Joe Cox of Springfield, and several cousins. She is also remembered by the hundreds of students whose lives she touched in over four decades of teaching.

If desired, memorials may be made to the Floyd A. Watkins scholarship fund at the University of Missouri that benefits agriculture students from Polk County.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Lena Ellis*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Lena Ellis*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I taught business education at St. Charles High School for four years with Lena Ellis as my department head. My husband Tom Sullivan (deceased), who was science department head at St. Charles High, and I knew Lena's husband Bill as well and stayed overnight with them several times after they moved into their new home in Bolivar. Even after I left the high school to teach at Lindenwood College, Lena and I remained friends. Several times I drove Lena from Bolivar to St. Charles for the retired business teacher Christmas party. After she moved into assisted living and nursing home. my daughter Debbie Toombs, who lives in Bolivar, and I visited Lena together several times in recent years.*

*Lena was a wonderful Christian woman and an excellent leader. She definitely influenced my life and the lives of all who knew her. She will be missed.*

*Linda (Sullivan) Shafer  
Holts Summit, MO 65043*

**Linda (Sullivan) Shafer** - November 16, 2015 at 07:21 AM

CR

“ *Lena, is happy now. She will truly be missed.  
Very Class lady.*



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**carol roush** - November 14, 2015 at 08:58 PM

DW

“ Dear Sharon, family and friends of Lena's,

*I had the good fortune of seeing Lena about six months ago. The nursing home was kind enough to set up a magnifying photo viewer for me to show Lena photos of some of the young people who benefitted from the Floyd Watkins Scholarship in MU's College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources. To date, over 100 students have received this scholarship. The scholarship will continue in perpetuity...how fortunate for our future students and leaders.*

*We've missed having Lena and Pauline with us for the annual Scholarship Luncheon. They loved coming to campus to meet THEIR students; their students loved them. I'm attaching a photo from one of these luncheons. These two look so happy with the floral bouquets they were taking home with them.*

*What a legacy Lena and her family have left behind.*

*Sincerely,*

*Darcy Wells*

*Executive Director of Advancement*

*College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources*

*Columbia, MO*



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**Darcy Wells** - November 13, 2015 at 02:37 PM