



Velvia Jean Fortenberry

October 8, 1953 - April 27, 2022

Velvia Jean (Lee) Fortenberry born 10/8/1953 Died 4/27/2022

Velvia Lee was born and raised in Kirksville, Missouri.

After high school she attended Northeast Missouri State, and went on to receive her degree in Speech and Language Pathology from CMSU.

She married Martin Kent Fortenberry on January 7th, 1973. Velvia and Martin were married for 49 years, until her death. They enjoyed taking drives to look at wild flowers, taking short trips to enjoy natural scenery, and recently attended the Ash Grove prom, where Martin teaches.

She began her teaching career in 1983. She went on to teach speech and language at Bunston, High Point, Latham, Clarksburg, California, and Jasper; all in Missouri.

She was an active member of High Point Baptist Church, 9th Street (Eldon), First Baptist Jasper, and most recently New Beginning Full Gospel Church in Humansville. Velvia was always willing to help in any way that she could, at times she was the church librarian, she taught Sunday School, she volunteered during Vacation Bible School, served on committees, sang in the choir, and helped prepare and serve meals for those in times of need.

Bel is was preceded in death by her parents Junior and Sarah (Mabis) Lee.

She is survived by her daughters; Sarah (Fortenberry) Spillman, and Amanda (Fortenberry) Whatley and her husband Matthew Whatley, as well as her two children Cora and Ezra Whatley of Bolivar, MO, and her sister ;Dr. Marah Lee of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

She remained close with her nieces and nephews and their children - always taking time to send cards and notes for birthdays and special occasions.

After retiring in March of 2020 she occupied her time with crafting and fixing up her home. She enjoyed crafting toys and clothing for her grandchildren, as well as cards. She regularly made handmade cards specifically for hospitalized children through the organization Cardz for Kidz. She enjoyed listening to podcasts, and sermons. She enjoyed cooking and entertaining. She was deeply religious and enjoyed reading her Bible and praying for family and members of her community.

She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, May 1st at Butler funeral home in Bolivar, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations to a college fund for Velvia's grandchildren. You can make a donation via paypal at this web address: <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8Jmxk61woc>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Graveside

MAY 1 (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery
S. Dunnegan Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613

Tribute Wall



“ *Velvia Jean Fortenberry*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Velvia Jean Fortenberry*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I didn't know Velvia in person, but I had the privilege of knowing her through writing back and forth as pen pals. For the last two years, we corresponded as fictional characters, then as our real selves. Velvia was certainly creative and revealed through her letters her caring nature, love of her family, and adoration of Martin and her home. I will miss writing to her so much.*

Lily Wisner - August 02, 2022 at 09:41 PM



“ *Prayers for the family.*

I lived on our family (York) farm near Clarksburg when Martin, Vel, and Katie lived in the old house on top of the hill from us. We always enjoyed their company and conversations. They were always willing to help with anything asked of them. Vel was kind and had a big beautiful smile that lives on in my memory.



Kathy Boots - April 30, 2022 at 08:48 AM

RW

“ *Velvia was a wonderful lady. She always had a smile and kind words to share. I am sure she will be missed by many, she touched so many lives. Love, Regenia Wyrick*

Regenia Wyrick - April 30, 2022 at 08:32 AM

MR

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I taught with your mom for many years. She was always so sweet.*

Mary Rush - April 29, 2022 at 07:56 PM

JL

“ *So many great memories with her from her time at Clarksburg. She was always such a nice and sweet lady. Thoughts and prayers to the family.*

John "JJ" Lucas - April 29, 2022 at 07:13 PM

DS

“ *One of my memories of Vel is the time Marty and Don lost their fishing poles when the canoe turned over. Vel was the only one that swam good enough to try to dive in to find them. She made several dives and on her last dive, because she was tired, she found one of them. She pulled it up with her and the other pole was hooked to the first one, so she found both of them. Happy fishermen!*

Deanna Stuckey - April 29, 2022 at 05:23 PM