



## Willa Mae Polly

June 7, 1926 - February 4, 2014

Willa Mae Matthews Polly, daughter of Charley Edwin Matthews and Emma Darby Matthews, was born June 7, 1926 at Polk, MO. She passed away February 4, 2014 at Wichita, KS after moving there on November 11, 2011 to live and be taken care of by her daughter and family. At the time of her passing she was 87 years, 7 months, and 28 days of age.

Willa Mae was the younger of two children born of Charley and Emma Matthews. She grew up in Polk, MO and attended Polk Elementary School and Emma D. High School at Goodson, MO. A bright student, she took two grades at once in elementary school and thus completed school in 11 years instead of 12.

After high school graduation, she enrolled at Southwest Baptist College and taught school the following Fall term. For 4 consecutive years she attended college in the summer months, and taught school in the fall, winter, and spring in a one-room school at Concord and Greenleaf Schools in Polk County. She was united in marriage to Dean Rexford Polly on April 27, 1947. To this union were born two children, a daughter Deanna Mae, and a son Robert Rex.

After marriage Dean and Willa Mae moved to Christian County, MO and made their home in Clever for 2 ½ years before moving back to Polk County. While there, Willa Mae taught 7th and 8th grades in the Billings Public School. Her teaching career continued two more years in the one-room school, then public schools for 27 ½ years intermittently with raising a family and attending

college, earning her Bachelors Degree from Southwest Baptist College in 1968. College credits were earned as well from Southwest Missouri State (now Missouri State) and the University of Missouri. Her last 24 years of teaching was done in the 5th grade in the Dallas County R-1 School District in Buffalo, MO. She retired in 1992 at the age of 66.

Willa Mae was a former member of the Missouri State Teachers Association and the Alpha Tau Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma International. At the time of death she was a member of the Dallas County Retired Teachers Association and the Missouri R.T.A.

Willa Mae professed her faith in Christ at age 13 and became a member of Mt. View Baptist Church at Polk, later moving her membership to Halfway Baptist Church in Halfway, MO. With her steadfast faith in God she overcame many difficulties caring for, working with, and teaching others. No task was too great, and her love for her family was beyond all measure.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Coach Eddie Matthews and his wife Bernice, her husband Dean after 58 years of marriage, and her son Robert.

She is survived by her daughter Deanna Mae Polly-Faulkner and her son-in-law Doug Faulkner, of Wichita, KS; four grandchildren: Rebekah Marie Polly of Springfield, MO, Rachel Michelle Polly of St. Louis, MO, Morgan Douglas Faulkner of Wichita, KS and Gabriel Robert Polly of Halfway, MO.; and one great-grandson Kingston Christopher Loss of St Louis, MO.

She is also survived by two daughters-in-law: Donna Polly of Halfway MO and Jody Polly of Springfield, MO., one sister-in-law Patricia (Polly) Southard Taylor of Wilson, N.C., nephews Edsel Matthews (Becky), L.J. Polly(Elaine), Steve Polly, Don Roderick (Sherry), Robert Polly(Tabetha) and Roger Polly; and nieces Buanna Matthews Beach (Dan), Carol Westfall Pyles (Joe), Jeanne Southard Lavelle (Tim), Janice Polly Hawkins, Donna Jean Polly and Judy Southard. In addition, she is survived by a host of great and great-great nieces and nephews and a countryside full of friends.

Willa Mae's life and love touched many, many others over her 87 years, not

only her family, friends, and neighbors, but those with whom she worked and taught school and the hundreds, maybe thousands, of students whom she taught.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, February 15th, at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, MO at 2:00 p.m. preceded by visitation from 12:30 to 2:00 at the same location. Following the service, burial will be at Reed Cemetery in Halfway, MO. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests Memorial contributions can be made to The Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, 313 S Market St. Wichita, KS 67202.

Friends and family may sign the guest book or leave private condolences at [www.butlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.butlerfuneralhome.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Willa Mae Polly*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Willa Mae Polly*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Mrs. Polly was my 5th grade teacher at Buffalo back in the day. I graduated in 1993, so it's been a long time ago. But I was thinking about her just now and wondering about her....googled her and saw this. She was a wonderful, wonderful person. One of the best teachers I ever had and she always showed me kindness, and back then....I really needed it. I always thought alot of her.*

**Beth Platz** - July 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was blessed to teach with Willa and have her as a friend. Our loss is heaven's gain. God bless her loved ones.*

**Eva Marie Glor** - February 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mrs. Polly was a wonderful teacher and friend to my mother, Eva Marie Glor. I feel blessed to have known Mrs. Polly. I learned so much in her classroom.*

**Evonne (Glor) Nutter** - February 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Ms. Polly was a wonderful teacher and person. She was one of my favorite teachers while in school in Dallas Co. I would like to send my thoughts and prayers to the family and many friends that she has touched over the years.

Leslie McCarthy - February 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ My Husband and I were so sorry to hear about your Mother.

Janet Hill Adcock - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ So sorry for your loss.

MariBeth Ruckman - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Sorry for your loss. Jim Whitman

James Whitman - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Deanna & Family,  
Rebecca, Rachel & Gabe,  
We want to extend our sincerely sympathy at the loss of Willa Mae.  
She was a wonderful friend and neighbor to us for many years. I  
know she will be greatly missed by all.  
Dan & Gloria Kennedy & Family  
Connie Arnold  
Randy & Nancy Arnold & Family  
Carolyn Fieth & Family  
Ron Arnold & Family

Dan & Gloria Kennedy - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Willa's passing. She was such a sweet lady. I always enjoyed visiting with her. Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Fran Shover** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM