



Mary Francis Meekma

JUN 20, 1929 - JAN 18, 2021



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 10



Mary Francis Meekma

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Union Grove- Our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Mary Francis Meekma left this earthly life to join the saints in Heaven on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021.

Mary was a true ‘coal miner’s daughter’; the oldest of 6 children born on June 20, 1929 in rural Muhlenberg County, Kentucky to Claude D. and Beulah Mae (Brown) Clemons. Growing up during the depression in a poor, rural community Mary recounted many happy childhood memories of hopscotch, jumping rope and treasured paper dolls as well as the deprivations and severely hard times her family endured. After helping to raise her siblings she left home for Louisville, KY where she worked in a defense plant and also waitressed. Seeking better opportunities, she followed relatives who had come to Racine where she worked at Johnson Wax and waitressed at the Dutch Maid restaurant where she met Lyle Meekma, a handsome, young man recently discharged from the Marines. Falling in love after a brief courtship they were married on June 6, 1953 in Racine at Grange Avenue Methodist Church.

Children were born, a new home was built; Mary and Lyle settled into providing for and nurturing their growing family. Lyle took a job promotion which moved them to Buffalo Grove, IL in 1972; then another promotion took them to Florida in the early 1980’s. As ‘empty-nesters’ they thrived in Florida where they made many happy memories together, forged many new and lasting friendships and enjoyed their time together. They returned to Racine in 2005 to be close to their children and families and settled into being Grandma and Grandpa.

Mary enjoyed bowling and casino trips with Lyle. She also enjoyed reading, quilting, sewing, and baking. Her family enjoyed the goodies she baked—especially her cookies and banana bread. A change in Lyle’s health took them to an assisted living facility where Lyle passed away in 2018. Mary then moved to Yorkville to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Paul Ampe, where she lived ‘happily ever after.’



Obituary

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Mary was always very proud of her Kentucky heritage and roots. She became an honorary 'Kentucky Colonel' and was proud of the fact that she had met the Father of Bluegrass Music, Bill Monroe. She was proud to be a Kentucky hillbilly!

Our hearts ache with her passing but are joyful that she is in Heaven with Dad and all our family and friends who have gone before her.

Mary is survived by her children: James H. (Kim) Meekma, Debra L. (Paul) Ampe, Bruce L. (Cindy) Meekma, and Kelly (Marcia Gerould) Meekma; loving sister, Freda Lovell of Powderly, KY; beloved grandchildren: Jamie (Nicholas) Jensen, Carrie (Barry) Simpson, Jacqueline Ibarra, Jennifer (Michael Podhola) Meekma, Lisa (Garret) McNeish, Jim (Cheryl) Meekma, Brian (Traci) Meekma, Barry Meekma, and Stephanie Escobar. She is further survived by several deeply loved great-grandchildren including Julia Rosenquist-Rodriguez, Eric Ibarra, Salma Ibarra, Lauren Simpson, Sevana McNeish, Garret McNeish, Jr., and Emily Kruchten, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mary was predeceased by her husband of 65 years Lyle Meekma, an infant son Chris Douglas, her siblings Catherine Starck, Marie Olcott, Charles Clemons, and Edith Clemons; her parents and in-laws and a foster great-grandchild Jay'ceon Booker-Oliver.

Friends and family are welcomed to a time of visitation at the Wilson Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. A celebration of Mary's life will follow at 11:00 A.M. Mary will be laid to rest at West Lawn Memorial Park. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, only 50 people will be allowed to enter the funeral home at a time. Guests may be required to wait outside until others leave the funeral home. Anyone planning on attending Mary's visitation and celebration of life will also be required to wear a face covering/mask upon entering the funeral home along with following social distancing guidelines.

Memorials may be directed to Yorkville United Methodist Church, 17645 Old Yorkville Road, Union Grove, WI 53182. Online condolences may be shared at www.wilsonfuneralhomeinc.com.



Events

Mary Francis Meekma

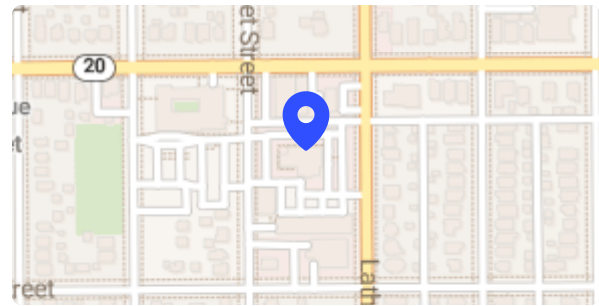
JUN 20, 1929 - JAN 18, 2021

Visitation

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM CT

Wilson Funeral Home - Racine
1212 Lathrop Ave, Racine WI 53405

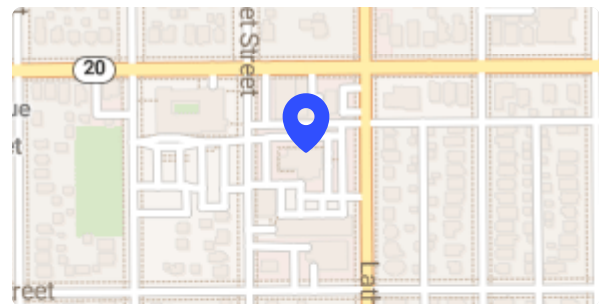


Celebration of Life

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

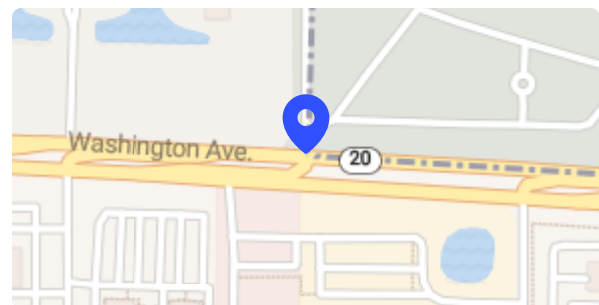
11:00 AM CT

Wilson Funeral Home - Racine
1212 Lathrop Ave, Racine WI 53405



Cemetery Details

West Lawn Memorial Park
9000 Washington Avenue, Mount Pleasant WI 53406





Tribute Wall

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DB

Dave Bellovary posted:

Sorry for your loss Debbie and Paul.Dave Bellovary

January 30 at 6:12 AM

CB

Charles And Jane Bragg posted:

Debbie, Our Deepest Sympathy to you and your family!Chuck and Jane Bragg

January 26 at 7:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tenderness to the Meekma family.



January 25 at 9:53 AM

SC

Sherry Crose posted:

On behalf of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the Order offers its deepest condolences and is proud of a life well lived by Colonel Meekma.Sherry Crose, Executive DirectorHonorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

January 25 at 6:24 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Meekma family.



January 25 at 6:04 AM

DK

Diane Kamm posted:

My deepest sympathy to the Meekma family. Mrs. Meekma (sorry, still can't call her Mary) was such a sweet lady and neighbor. I have great memories of hanging out at your house on Floyd Drive. May God bless you all. Diane Arndt Kamm

January 24 at 3:44 PM



Tribute Wall

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Kelly Parker posted:

Bruce L Meekma so sorry to hear about your mother my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family...Kelly Parker

January 24 at 2:59 PM



Anonymous sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Meekma family.

January 24 at 8:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Meekma family.

January 24 at 4:09 AM



Richard And Betty Rousar sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Meekma family.

January 23 at 2:39 PM



Gail Rosenquist posted:

What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful woman. Please accept our deepest sympathies to the Meekma family. Carl & Gail.

January 23 at 7:24 AM



Frank Neubecker posted:

Debbie and Paul our thoughts are with you and your family.Love Dan and Frank

January 23 at 6:04 AM



Tribute Wall

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Cindy Meekma posted:

Best Mother In Law ever!! I will miss you!!!

January 22 at 5:48 PM



Kathy Waters lit a candle in honor of Mary.

Bruce, Cindy, and family - my condolences to you on the passing of your mother/grandmother. Losing a parent is never easy. Please accept my condolences. Kathy Waters

January 22 at 11:43 AM



Carrie Simpson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

You were the true definition of a Grandma! You were all about family, supporting your grandchildren in anything and taught us some good life lessons along the way. I always loved hearing your stories of growing up and in the good ol' days. Every time we talked I learned something new about you. Grandma Meekma, I love and miss you dearly but I know we will meet again. You will forever be my angel!

January 22 at 10:03 AM



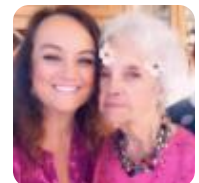
Carrie Simpson lit a candle in honor of Mary.

January 22 at 10:02 AM



Carrie Simpson shared an album called **The best grandma!**

January 22 at 10:00 AM





Tribute Wall

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Carrie Simpson shared an album called **Memories Album**.



January 22 at 9:59 AM



Carrie Simpson shared an album called **Memories Album**.



January 22 at 9:58 AM



Eva Gerardo (Formerly Meekma) posted:

My deepest condolences to my children Rebecca Nash and James Meekma on the loss of their great grandma Mary Meekma. When I was married to Mary's (& the late Lyle Meekma) grandson, my favorite memory would be playing poker and having drinks with them along with visiting them in Florida. Mary was a very kind and special woman and I'll always be so thankful for the kindness she and her late husband extended to me even after their grandson and I divorced. Rest sweetly in Heaven Grandma...say hi to Grandpa for me. Love, Eva Gerardo

January 22 at 6:52 AM



Media

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Carrie Simpson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 22 at 10:03 AM





Media

Mary Francis Meekma

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Carrie Simpson shared a photo to the **The best grandma!** album.

January 22 at 10:00 AM





Media

Mary Francis Meekma

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Carrie Simpson shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

January 22 at 9:59 AM



The best grandma!



Media

Mary Francis Meekma

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Carrie Simpson shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

January 22 at 9:58 AM



The best grandma! I miss you and love you
always!



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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