



Wanda Jean Little

January 5, 1948 - January 9, 2023

Wanda Jean Little, age 75, earned her heavenly wings and flew away peacefully to Glory on January 9, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Wanda was born in Starkville, Mississippi, on January 5, 1948, to Hosea and Hazel Smith. She was the second of four children: the middle child, the peacemaker, the smart one. Growing up in Highlands, Texas, she met the love of her life, Les, at age 16. In 1970, they married and would spend 53 years together. The greatest joys of her life were being a wife, being mother to Jenni, Mandi and Kevin, and being “Lolli” to her four grandkids - Madi, Macy, Marley and Cooper.

After graduating from Baylor University in 1969, Wanda began her passion of teaching Elementary School. Her love of teaching also compelled her to lead Sunday School, youth groups, and women’s bible studies. She inspired us, ALL of us, and was positive, loving, and generous. Whether making chocolate pies, writing poems, having meaningful conversations, singing silly songs (a little off key), acting goofy, or traveling the world, she never met a stranger. Her students adored her, her friends loved her, everyone will remember her smile, and her children now rise up and call her Blessed.

There are many words that encapsulate who Wanda was: edifying, joyful, energetic, friendly, spunky, funny, quirky, creative, faithful, nurturing, encouraging, a giving servant. She is fondly remembered as Mom, Wan, Lolli, Sister, Aunt, and Friend.

Wanda is a most unforgettable character. She was everyone’s cheerleader

and #1 fan. There will never be another Wanda Jean! She will be missed by all who had the privilege to know her and the world will be a little less bright without her.

“I have fought the fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” ~II Timothy 4:7

“Well done my good and faithful servant.” ~Matthew 25:21

“And when we get to Heaven, the gates will open wide and Jesus will be standing there, to welcome me inside. We will see our friends and loved ones, and those who've gone before. And we will be together forever more.” ~ Hazel Smith, Wanda's mother

The family requests memorials to be sent to the Little Light House, 5120 E. 36th St., Tulsa, OK 74135.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

5111 S. Memorial Dr.
Tulsa, OK 74145
(918) 627-0220
<http://memorialparktulsa.com>

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 12. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

JAN 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Wanda Jean Little



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 17, 2023 at 12:34 PM



“ Wanda Jean Little

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ 11 files added to the album Leisure Park Elementary



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 18, 2023 at 12:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Wandas Video Tribute*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 18, 2023 at 10:36 AM

LW

“our Lady, Wanda Jean”

Yesterdays celebration of life service so so beautiful. Mrs. Little was my fourth grade teacher and later, friend 🍷

I wanted to share two stand-out memories I had with Wanda Jean.

Mrs. Little grew up in Texas (something about her makes you know that before event talking to her) and taught all her students manners. ‘Yes ma’am’ and ‘no sir’ were the main ones- if we forgot, our names went up on the board and we missed recess. She truly scared us straight!!

I remember the one and only time I responded to her with a “yeah” and remembering (in slow motion) the fear (of God) that must’ve been in my eyes as I realized it was too late to correct myself. My heart sunk and I got the “name on the board” look.

When it was time for recess and I stayed behind, embarrassed and feeling like I’d let her down, she shooed me on with the rest of the class. I always thought it was because I was “a good student” but I see now she gave me some grace. And I sure as hell made sure it never happened again!

Her love and encouragement throughout my fourth grade year (paired with a wonderful group of friends that felt like family) built my confidence more than anything else ever had. I was so so shy, and very scared of disappointing the adults in my life. The way she encouraged us to learn, play, be creative, treat others with respect, be silly, etc. really changed that for me.

Because of that, I had the courage to try out and accept a lead role in the 5th grade musical. This role had the most speaking parts out of the entire musical, and was probably the most anyone had ever heard me talk up until that point.

After the musical was over and we were released into the crowd of parents and friends, Mrs. Little beelined to me. It's like I didn't care about finding anyone else after that show. She met me with the biggest smile and hug and congratulated me on how much I'd blossomed and gone outside my comfort zone. I remember feeling the emotion of "I've made someone i love so proud" so heavily for one of the first times ever.

All this to say- she met me with that same proud, excited, loving squeeze every time I've seen her over the last 17 years. I'm so sad she won't be attending my future wedding or screaming with excitement at baby announcements or meeting my sisters and mom with me for lunch. If i could live a life filled with half the love and light she had, I'd be more than happy.

Mrs Wanda Jean Little, I already know you'll be one of the first ones to squeeze my neck in the next life 🍷 Until then, I'll make sure to make you proud and try to be the Wanda Jean in someone else's life.

Lizzie Watts - January 14, 2023 at 10:39 AM

DF

“ *Wanda was always so much fun. Many warm memories of your family and ours. I am deeply saddened but know Wanda is celebrating. I can imagine all those lined up in Heaven to greet her with a parade. Les, Jenni, Kevin and Mandy you are in my thoughts and prayers. David Fray*

David Fray - January 13, 2023 at 04:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 13, 2023 at 05:01 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 12, 2023 at 10:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 12, 2023 at 08:12 PM



“ *Darin, April, and Nate Jackson purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



Darin, April, and Nate Jackson - January 12, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 12, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ *SHARON AND I LOVED WANDA. SHE WAS A CHRISTIAN LIGHT IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE. WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THE TIME WE SPENT AS ELDERS OF NEW HEART CHURCH WITH HER AND AND LES. WE'LL SEE YOU IN HEAVEN WANDA! MAY GOD HOLD LES AND THE ALL THE FAMILY IN HIS ARMS OF PEACE AND COMFORT.*

JIM AND SHARON BEAVERS - January 12, 2023 at 08:32 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 12, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Mrs. Little has shaped who I am and the work I do since 3rd grade. She inspired me to be a teacher and anyone that asks me why I am in this profession knows her name. She was a light in this world and I am honored that I got to stay in touch with her some over the years and that I was able to thank her and tell her what she meant to me when we met for lunch in 2019. I am beyond sorry for your loss but your mom, grandma, sister, friend, wife, aunt, etc. lives on in this world through so many people. Her light continues.*

*Sending Love,
Jacque Lynn*



Jacque Ann - January 12, 2023 at 08:10 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 12, 2023 at 01:50 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 11, 2023 at 08:53 PM



“ *Roger Byers & Family* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



Roger Byers & Family - January 11, 2023 at 07:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 11, 2023 at 07:25 PM

NS

“ Mrs. Little was my 3rd grade teacher in 1997. She is what made me love school. I can also thank her for my love of blow pops & Braum’s banana splits. I am an excellent speller thanks to her & her brilliant game that she called ‘sparkle spelling.’ I will never forget that after school (if we got so many 100s in a row on our weekly spelling test) she would let us pile in her convertible & go to braums with her for a banana split. She was the kindest person & my all time favorite teacher. I am in education now & I can only hope that my students will love & remember me as fondly as I do her. I am so sorry to the family for your loss. She was a true gift & made an impact in many lives. She also taught me to “always eat dessert first.” 🍷 I know she is rejoicing with Jesus & enjoying Heavens all you can eat dessert buffet! I am praying for the Little family that the Lord wraps you in His loving arms & gives you the peace o Lu He can provide.

Natalie Stewart - January 11, 2023 at 06:11 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 11, 2023 at 03:30 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 11, 2023 at 03:07 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 01:42 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 10:35 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 07:58 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.*



January 11, 2023 at 07:12 AM



“ *I'm thankful for the years of being Wanda's work neighbor at Leisure Park. Her pies and stories brought so much joy to the Leisure Park Bridge group! The greatest is love and her love for God brightened the world. Praying for peace that passes all understanding for her wonderful family!*

Ronda Scribner - January 10, 2023 at 10:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 10:36 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 09:12 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 07:06 PM

SH

“ Sarah Hadrava-cocolin lit a candle in memory of Wanda Jean Little



sarah Hadrava-cocolin - January 10, 2023 at 05:07 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 04:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 04:15 PM

MK

“ Mike and I are so sorry to hear of Wanda's passing. She and Les made us feel so welcome when we went to New Heart with them years ago, and brought much light to us during a challenging time in our lives. She was one of those people who bubbled with joy up from the inside out and was always a delight to be around. I know she will be very missed, and I know her sweet family will see her again.

Mike & Traci Kirk - January 10, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 02:34 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 02:30 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 01:11 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 10, 2023 at 01:03 PM

RS

“ Wanda’s motto was where two or more are gathered together there I must be. The first time I met her was at a garage sale in her subdivision In The fall of 1982. I bought a 25 cents small black toile painted skillet at her house. She immediately said “oh you like country too” and said you’ve got to come in and see what I’ve done In my den. Had never laid eyes on me before. The rest is history. Once you met her you were her friend for life. The first time I met Les I saw this big good looking guy running a vacuum cleaner ... I was so impressed. I have so many wonderful and funny memories of our friendship. She and Les left me a voicemail on December 24 singing Merry Christmas and at the end she says “love you “ and I love her.

renee stacks - January 10, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Jean Little.



January 09, 2023 at 11:59 PM



“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 09, 2023 at 05:21 PM

TW

Dear Les & Family: Was sad to learn of Wanda's passing, but am 100% certain she is loving her eternal home! I will always remember her for her solid faith and funloving way! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this season that the God of all comfort will surround you with joy and peace! Blessings, Ted Whaley

Ted Whaley - January 12, 2023 at 03:38 PM