



## Mrs. Christine N. Steele

July 12, 1926 - February 19, 2020

Christine Newman Steele, a longtime resident of Willow Springs, MO, passed away early Wednesday morning, February 19, 2020, while at Willow Care Nursing Home. She was born July 12, 1926 to M. J. and Christine (Compare) Newman in Shamokin, PA and was 93 years old.

Christine graduated from Mount St. Mary Academy for Girls in Little Rock, AR in 1944. She went on to study at the University of Texas Medical School where she graduated as an X-Ray Technician in 1946. She married Harry B. Steele, Jr. in 1946 and to this union 6 children were born. At the time of their marriage they lived in Rolla, MO where Harry was attending college. They lived in West Plains and Mtn. Grove before settling down in Willow Springs. She enjoyed painting in her free time as well as going fishing with Harry. In 1962, she became the City Librarian at the Willow Springs Public Library where she worked for 26 years. Christine was very active in community affairs and received the "Woman of the Year" honor from the Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce in 1975 and again in 1989. She also served on the Willow Springs Arts Council Board, the Willow Springs Country Club Board of Directors, the Salvation Army Board of Directors, and the Willow Springs Public Library Board of Directors. She was a past president of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and a member of Hometown Pride. She was also a member of the Tuesday Study Club for 60 years. She was a faithful member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church for more than 60 years. She will be dearly missed by

her family, her many

Christine is preceded in death by her husband, Harry Steele, Jr.; and four sons: Harry Steele, III, David Steele, Patrick Steele, and Tom Steele.

She is survived by her son, Steve Steele and his wife, Sandra of Springfield, MO; her daughter, Margaret Susan Hickerson and her husband, Dan of Kennan, WI; her grandchildren: Samantha, Jason, Jennifer, Mary, Shannon, Christopher, Daniel, Amanda, Tracy, and Wilbur. Several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren further survive.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Christine's memory be made to the Willow Springs Public Library and may be left at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Willow Springs with Father Sherman Wall officiating. Inurnment will follow at the Willow Springs City Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. Online condolences may be left at [www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com](http://www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **Willow Springs City Cemetery**

State Rte DD

Willow Springs, MO 65793

# Tribute Wall

RJ

“ My mother Virginia Lee Rothgeb loved Christine Steele. They have been friends for well over 60 years. Just this past Christmas they sent Christmas cards to each other. Over the years she has shared many fond memories with me about Christine. One memory in particular stands out. Christine knew that her husband Harry loved to play bridge. Christine would invite mom and others over to play bridge in the evening with Harry and she would always serve delicious food. Mom said she was a wonderful mother and wife and she is so sad to hear of her passing.

Rachel Rothgeb Johnson - February 21, 2020 at 09:18 AM



Camille  
Andreas

“ RIP beautiful lady. We remember fun times with you and Harry.

Frank & Camille Andreas



Camille Andreas - February 20, 2020 at 11:10 PM

JW

“ James And Jean Worley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Christine N. Steele



James and Jean Worley - February 20, 2020 at 02:43 PM

SZ

“ Christine was a great asset to all who knew her ,she was always willing to help with whatever you needed. She was a gentle Lady and radiated love . The sweetness and the love she radiated was unique. We will keep her and her family in our prayers. Rest in peace sweet lady you deserve it...I was proud to know you and be a friend and really enjoyed our Saturday night dinners after church and sharing your stories...you were always a fascinatingly interesting Lady and many many people are going to miss you !! Our love to you dear friend !!! Love to you from Jim and Sandy Zagroba

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**Sandy Zagroba** - February 20, 2020 at 11:19 AM

TD

“ An avid reader for as long as I can remember, I utilized the services of the public library for many years. Christine helped, enabled me to ace many papers and research projects while in school. Attending Willow Springs High School in the mid seventies the library was a tremendous wealth of research material. This is, of course, long before the information world was at our finger tips. Christine was not only knowledgeable of what resources the library offered, but always went far beyond her call of duty to help me find material. I still remember one of my high school teachers asking me where I always found such stellar material for my papers. I replied, Mrs. Steele's library. God Bless You Christine. You made a positive impact on this boy which will last a lifetime.

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**Tony R Duddridge** - February 20, 2020 at 08:40 AM

KD

“ I got my first job at the Willow Springs Library when I was in high school. Mrs. Steele was so patient with me and placed a love of books and reading within me that has remained. She was such an asset to the library and to Willow Springs! She was a true lady! Prayers to all her family!

Karen (King) Dugger - February 20, 2020 at 01:16 AM

BC

I also met Christine at the library. She was a true lady and a jewel in Willow Springs' crown. So sweet, smart and never forgot your name. What will Willow do without Christine? My prayers are with her family. We all loved her!

Barbara Crouch - February 25, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ I always loved and appreciated Mrs. Steele for her warm personality and willingness to help everyone. I had not actually seen her in many years, but about four years ago we met having lunch at a tea room in West Plains. She knew me on sight, and greeted me sweetly asking all about my parents and my family. I will always remember her as a refined gentle lady who was and is a Willow Springs treasure. My deepest condolences to her family.  
Cheri Simpson Beavers

Cheri Beavers - February 19, 2020 at 07:42 PM

LH

I always loved her style. She wore so many bracelets, I can hear them clanking on the desk and tinkling in the air as she would wave someone on to a section of books. I visited her a few years ago and it was as if time has stood still for all those many years. What a lovely woman to remember from my childhood.

Lisa Tudor Hood - February 25, 2020 at 06:58 PM

JM

“ Absolutely will be missed. Christine always told me "your a good mom for bringing your children to the library". Had her grandson Wilber Hickerson in 5th grade. After lunch he sometimes would hide under my desk. Very crafty just like his grandma. RIP.



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**Joyce Melby** - February 19, 2020 at 07:30 PM

HT

“ Wonderful lady and such an asset to Willow Springs. She will be missed. I am so glad I got to see her at one of the reunions.

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**Helen Tandy** - February 19, 2020 at 07:21 PM

SB

“ I worked with Christine Steele from the 6th grade through high school graduation. She was always so fun and supportive of myself and all the kids who came by the library after school and after church on Weds. nights. Christine was charming, always ready to help chaperone our events and was such a great example to all of us of how to be accessible to kids. She knew each one of us and our families and was a constant encouragement for reading, school work and friendships. We were so lucky to have her with us as an honorary chaperone at our 50th class reunion 2 years ago. I will love her forever. My sympathies to her family and her friends.



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**Sara "Sadie Burns"Pruisner** - February 19, 2020 at 05:37 PM

CP

“ I was a friend of Suzie Steele in high school in Willow because we both had November birthdays and were in several activities together. I had lunch at Suzie's house on several Saturdays because they always had hamburgers for lunch on Saturday. Mrs. Steele always was gracious and treated me like one of the kids. She was funny and I enjoyed her so much at her home and at the library. She always seemed to be a great mom to her kids. Charlene (Rakestraw) Piatt

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**Charlene Piatt** - February 19, 2020 at 05:30 PM

LB

“ Christine was a very sweet lady and will be missed by all that knew her. She always had a smile on her face.

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**Linda Bradford** - February 19, 2020 at 05:16 PM

GS

“ I worked for Mrs Steele when I was in high school. Her children were very good friends of mine (primarily Harry and David). I know she was and is loved by many. Please accept my sympathy and love.

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**georgia birdsell stone** - February 19, 2020 at 05:04 PM