



Joan Bailey Russell

November 16, 1933 - June 5, 2017

Joan Bailey Russell, a well known and respected resident of Willow Springs, unexpectedly passed away while at her home Monday afternoon, June 5, 2017 due to natural causes, she was 83 years old.

Joan Bailey Russell was born November 16, 1933 in a two-room apartment in Wichita, Kansas to Robert Haz and Ruby Dell (Salisbury) Bailey. The young couple had come off the road for Ruby to give birth, but they, with Joannie in tow, were soon back on the road traveling with a band of Gypsies, peddling their goods. They stayed on the road, wintering in Tyrone, Missouri until 1935 when Joan's grandmother, Angeline Bailey traded the farm, dubbed "the Dirty Place" by Joan for a farm on 63 highway toward West Plains. They lived with Angeline and Grampa George (when he was around) until Robert bought the Mayre place across the road. Wendell was born there in July 1940 and a couple of months later, Robert sold that place and they moved to a little house down the hill from where Margarite Wehmer's home is.

From there, they moved to a farm out by where Pig Paul's Pork Plantation was located and Joannie attended Davis School. From there they moved out Pine Grove Road to the Booth-Wyatt house. Joan and Joyce Gurnsey walked to school in town.

The next home was a little house on East Fourth Street that they rented from

Claude and Edgie Moody for \$12 a month. During that time, Robert was called to the Army where he spent his two years in Camp Lee, Virginia. In 1951, they left Fourth Street and moved to a rent house on 63 across from the Aztec. It was that very year that Joan graduated from Willow Springs High School and went to work at the telephone company as a switchboard operator alongside Peggy Pace.

In 1953, Joan was married to Lee Maxwell Russell, a Korean War veteran in this First Baptist Church. They moved to Wichita where Max had a job working for Frito-Lay. Their first daughter, Debbie was born in Wichita, where Joan had been born twenty years earlier.

Max, Joan and Deb moved to Mtn. Grove where daughter Cindie and son Dave were born. They were in Springfield when son Scott was born. While in Springfield, Joan worked at Smith-Glynn Callaway Clinic as a switchboard operator.

They moved to Kansas City and Rogers, Arkansas with Max's construction jobs before settling in Ozark, Missouri. Max continued working on the road, leaving Joan to manage their real estate business, run the farm and keep up with the four kids.

In 1980, they moved to Houston, Texas where Joan worked for Dr. Robert Fain, the team physician for the Houston Oilers. She enjoyed her association with the team members, especially Warren Moon.

Max died of cancer in 1991. In 1997, Joan retired and returned home to Willow Springs where she plunged into civic groups and politics on the local, state and national level. Joan was an active member in the following groups: Howell County Republican Committee, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Senior Center Committee, Howell County Sheltered Workshop,

Willow Springs Theatre Guild, Senate Bill 40 Committee, Willow Springs Community Foundation Board, Chairman of the Alumni Banquet and member of the Scholarship Committee, Tuesday Study Club, and the Willow Springs Theatre Guild, holding offices in many. Joan was Howell County Republican of the Year in 2007. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church where she thoroughly enjoyed singing with the choir. She was also a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Mormons.

Joan, Wendell and Lou Wehmer carried on a Saturday morning tradition with their morning information show, "Wake Up Willow!"

Joan is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a daughter, Cynthia Jane Russell, a son, Scott Bailey Russell and a great-granddaughter, Ruby Adele Jamison.

She is survived by her children, Debra Russell Foley, Columbia and a son, David Russell of the home, three grandchildren, Courtney Russell Jamison and her husband Scott of Columbia; Ashley Foley Gilland and her husband Casey, also of Columbia and Dylan Russell of Houston, Texas. Further surviving are seven great grandchildren, Hiram Scott, Olivia Jane, Lane Bailey, Addie Ruth, Clark Reed, Selah Rose and Eric Grant Jamison all of Colmbia, Missouri.

Brother Wendell Bailey and wife Jane of Willow Springs and sister, Vicki Bailey Cave and husband Shannon of Holts Summit, along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends also survive.

Because of Joan's passion for the Star Theatre and due to the recent fire which did extensive damage, we think Joan would be happy with donations made to the Star Theatre where she spent many hours working, carrying on business and popping popcorn.

A visitation/family night for Joan will be held from 3pm-5pm, Sunday, June 11, 2017 at the First Baptist Church. Funeral services will follow on Monday at 10:00 am, June 12, 2017, also at the First Baptist church with interment at the Willow Springs City Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Willow Springs City Cemetery

State Rte DD
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
402 N Harris Street
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3295
<http://firstbaptistws.org>

Service

JUN 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
402 N Harris Street
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3295
<http://firstbaptistws.org>

Tribute Wall

GM

“ Five long years later I am looking through old photos and found a special one I took of JoAn. She is dearly missed. I was out of town when she left this world but there is hardly a day goes by that I pass by the theater and memories of times spent just flood my thoughts. RIP my dear Jonie!



Gayle McDaniel - March 28, 2022 at 10:15 PM

SA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole Bailey family!
Bill & Suzanne Adams

suzanne adams - June 12, 2017 at 08:07 AM

EB

“ Joan came into my life when my husband and I moved to the Willow Springs area. I got to know her when her sister in law, Jane talked me into joining the theater group. Joan always told me "if I was only 20 years younger, I would go after your husband". We always laughed at that. She was a wonderful, funny and beautiful lady and I know the town of Willow Spings will miss her for a very long time. My condolences to the Baily family. I wish I could be there with you all. God bless and rest in peace Joan.
Love,
Evonne Barron

Evonne Barron - June 11, 2017 at 12:02 AM



“ *Heartfelt condolences to the Bailey family from me and my brother, Jon.*

Tom Nelson - June 10, 2017 at 03:01 PM

BR

“ *My deepest condolences for Debbie and the family. Many wonderful childhood memories of visiting the family in Ozark.*



Brenda Reese - June 10, 2017 at 10:56 AM



“ *I met JoAn in 2009 when I was involved in the Wizard of Oz & played the wicked witch. I have been the the W.S. Theatre Guild on & off since then. She always had something to say & usually had a smile too. She tried to keep things straight for the guild & the other organization that used the Star theater. She will be missed as it has all ready been said.*

Our sympathy goes out to all her family. So sorry for your loss.

*Ron & Berti Campbell
Mtn. View, MO.*

Berti Campbell - June 09, 2017 at 08:41 PM

MH

“ *Meri, Joe & Ike Heinemann purchased the Healing Tears - All Pink for the family of Joan Bailey Russell.*



Meri, Joe & Ike Heinemann - June 09, 2017 at 12:16 PM

MM

“ *Mary Sue Meal lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Mary Sue Meal - June 09, 2017 at 09:15 AM



“ *To Joan's family, so sorry for your loss. I met Joan at the 2017 Willow Springs Alumni Banquet for the first time. I feel like she would have been a great person to have as a friend.*

Melvina Abbey - June 08, 2017 at 09:27 PM

MP

“ *Mary and I send our condolences to the Bailey family. Joan was always so fun! She added humor to the alumni banquet and made me feel welcomed.*



Mary Orr and Sadie Pruisner - June 08, 2017 at 07:54 PM

SW

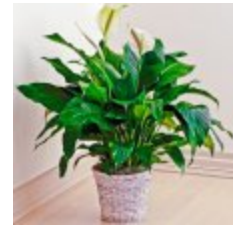
“ *Scott Ward purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Joan Bailey Russell.*



Scott Ward - June 08, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Joan Bailey Russell.*



June 08, 2017 at 10:29 AM



“ *Shawna Rose lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Shawna rose - June 08, 2017 at 09:01 AM



“ *Pamela K. Corl sent a virtual gift in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Pamela K. Corl - June 07, 2017 at 09:58 PM



“ *She was an asset to the community and a beam of light to those around her. I don't think she ever met a stranger... A great lady and glad to have visited with her a few weeks ago.*

Pamela K. Corl - June 07, 2017 at 09:57 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Joan Bailey Russell.* ”



June 07, 2017 at 07:17 PM



“ *Russell Family purchased the Lavender Dreams for the family of Joan Bailey Russell.* ”



Russell Family - June 07, 2017 at 05:01 PM



“ *I will miss JoAn so very much....my life was enriched in knowing her.* ”



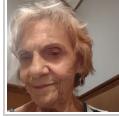
Barbara Nyden - June 07, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ *Glenna Kentch lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell* ”



Glenna Kentch - June 07, 2017 at 12:26 PM



Joannie, my good friend. I will miss you so much.

Glenna Kentch - June 09, 2017 at 10:10 AM

DO

“ *Donna lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Donna - June 07, 2017 at 01:09 AM

JG

“ *Jeannie Geer lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Jeannie Geer - June 06, 2017 at 07:53 PM

CF

“ *JoAn was one of those people that I couldn't help but smile whenever I saw her coming. She always greeted me by putting her hands on my face and giving me a kiss and a hug. I remember spending several shows at the Star Theater talking to her in the lobby for hours, she had some of the best stories. She will forever be in my heart and I will miss her dearly.*



Craig Fowler - June 06, 2017 at 07:28 PM

RR

Joan was one of the first person I met when moving here to Willow. Her love for people and life is amazing. Heaven is in for a treat receiving her as a new resident.

Ralph Rodrigues - June 07, 2017 at 06:15 AM

SP

“ *Joan bought our home place. At the Alumni Banquet, she told me of a picture of Mom and Dad with grandkids. She was so nice. Funny too! I am so sorry for the Bailey family.*



Sadie Burns Pruisner - June 06, 2017 at 03:57 PM

ZH

Joan was a year ahead of me in High School and she always had a lot of zip and was a fun loving person. I know she impacted many people in her lifetime. My sympathies to the family.
Zoe Anne Hauth

Zoe Anne Hauth - June 06, 2017 at 05:23 PM

DL

JoAn , a person who was always thoughtful in doing things for friends and also people she had just met, she will be greatly missed. We love you JoAn. Don and Barb Lemelin Placentia California

Don Barb Lemelin - June 06, 2017 at 09:00 PM

JP

“ *We're so sorry for your family's loss.*

Jim & Elaine Plowman

James & Elaine Plowman - June 06, 2017 at 12:41 PM

DG

“ *Our Prayers Don & Ann Gentry*

Don & Ann Gentry - June 06, 2017 at 12:20 PM

ED

“ *So glad she got to see the Star Theater reopen. I will always remember her at the pop corn machine.*



Ellen Drapkin - June 06, 2017 at 11:59 AM

SP

“ *Sean Patterson lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Sean Patterson - June 06, 2017 at 11:08 AM

B(

“ *Beverly (Warren)Broyles lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Beverly (Warren)Broyles - June 06, 2017 at 08:40 AM

CH

“ When my family moved to Willow a couple of years ago Joan was the one of the first to stop by and introduce herself. She visited for quite some time that day and I knew right then this was home. How could it not be with neighbors like her! Sending many thoughts and prayers to her family.

Crystal Hopper - June 06, 2017 at 07:42 AM

AH

I remember Joan as a young girl as I was in the same grade at school with her it is sad to here of her passing. She was one of the only ones in our class that stayed in Willow and that i8s wonderful thing. I was known as Addie Whitbey, now Addie Hawkins Glover was also from Willow Springs, We made our home in Denver, Co.

Addie Hawkins - June 06, 2017 at 02:16 PM

JK

Will miss her smiling face and cheerful attitude. She always brought flowers into the office for us.

Jean Klappmeyer - June 06, 2017 at 03:50 PM

TP

My heartfelt condolences to the family.

I saw JoAn a couple weeks ago at Wal-Mart sitting on a bench near an exit and ended up chatting with her for 15 or 20 minutes.

We swapped phone numbers as she intended to take me to a Lions Club meeting after I asked about worthy volunteer opportunities in the area.

Willow Springs and area citizens have lost one of their most ardent advocates.

JoAn was always so engaging. I will miss those pleasant and random encounters.

May she rest in peace.

Tom Pringle - June 10, 2017 at 05:43 AM



“ *Ronda Kupitz Anderson lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Ronda Kupitz Anderson - June 06, 2017 at 05:16 AM



“ *Wow what a wonderful lady she was the years pass so fast but she never changed she always knew you when she saw you my kind of lady. Prayers for all of her family & Friends. We had a great view of the sunset tonight Joan's was Heavenly .*



Reda Brooks Foster - June 06, 2017 at 12:35 AM



“ *She was a very special lady she will be greatly missed, May God send comfort and strength for all the days ahead to her family and friends.*
Freda Carr Famil

Freda Carr - June 05, 2017 at 11:55 PM



“ *Bobbi Gregory lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell*



Bobbi Gregory - June 05, 2017 at 10:59 PM

BG

“ *JoAn will be missed. She was an advocate for Willow Springs and community involvement. She supported local business. But my most memorable memories were our conversations about how important our children's education is. She was a strong supporter of learning and Christian morals. You will be missed JoAn!* ”



Bobbi Gregory - June 05, 2017 at 10:57 PM

LC

“ *I am in shock. I just ran into her at Open Range. She said she was going home she was sick. She will be missed. Praying for family.* ”

Lois caldwel - June 05, 2017 at 10:07 PM

JW

“ *Jean And James Worley lit a candle in memory of Joan Bailey Russell* ”



Jean and james worley - June 05, 2017 at 10:01 PM

TE

“ *Joan had a contagious laugh that was unmistakable & unique. She loved her family & community (who she treated like family). She was one in a million & will truly be missed.* ”

Tanya Essary - June 05, 2017 at 09:19 PM

DE

“ We loved this full-of-life lady! She was always a joy to be around. Lloyd will cherish the memory of his last kiss on the cheek the other night. Wonderful woman and friend! She will be sorely missed.

Debbie Ebert - June 05, 2017 at 09:15 PM

EG

“ So sorry to hear about Joan Bailey-Russell. She will certainly be missed by many. God Bless the family at this time.

Emily & Rodney Gibson - June 05, 2017 at 08:51 PM



“ This is so hard to believe! Just saw her yesterday at lunch at the Mexican restaurant in Willow. She always had a smile and never knew a stranger. She will be missed. Prayers for the family as they deal with the loss of this lady that touched so many lives.

Robby Rakestraw - June 05, 2017 at 08:50 PM

LD

“ Oh goodness! Lots of memories could be shared, but most of them probably shouldn't be shared here. LOL She was a bundle of fun to be around. We've had lots of laughs. I remember the evening years back when we worked painting the black stuff on the foundation walls at the Lion's Club. May have been an adult beverage or two consumed as we were doing it. I think we had more on us than on the walls. A couple of weeks ago I was giving her a hard time about being in so many clubs and on so many boards in order to have a longer obituary. Her reply was, "Hell, I've already got two full pages." She, Misty and I laughed and laughed. Little did I know how close we were to reading that obituary. R. I. P. Joannie! Hope you've found someone to talk to up there. No worry. If nothing else, it will be a fence post.....LOL I'll miss your, "Hello, hello, hello", when I called!

Lady Di - June 05, 2017 at 08:28 PM

BS

“ Joan Bailey-Russell was an integral part of Willow Springs and she spent her life trying to benefit the community she loved. She will be missed. RIP Joan Bailey-Russell. Buddy Stuart

Buddy Stuart - June 05, 2017 at 08:27 PM

IM

“ So sorry. Love and sympathy to the family.

Ida McClellan - June 05, 2017 at 08:20 PM

SC

Very sorry to get this news. Love and prayers to the family.

Scott Corn - June 05, 2017 at 08:27 PM

GV

Just loved this woman. She made everyone welcome. Will miss her smile.

Ginny VanOsKeuls - June 05, 2017 at 10:03 PM



So sorry to hear this. She was the life of the party. Prayers for the Baileys.

David Hicks - June 05, 2017 at 11:39 PM

SP

Sorry to hear this. She was such a wonderful lady. She would talk to anyone. She will be missed by many in this town of Willow Springs.

Sean Patterson - June 06, 2017 at 11:12 AM

MS

We will miss Joan and her spirit, energy and directness. She was fun to be around and warm in her interactions. Whether giving me what-for at the 2017 Alumni Banquet or charming her way into the line at the American Legion luncheon, she was truly a beloved friend who will be sorely missed.

Mike & Fern Stuart - June 07, 2017 at 10:22 AM