



Sam L. Carlson

October 13, 1939 - January 15, 2016

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Sam L. Carlson, who passed away after a brief battle with cancer Friday evening, January 15, 2016 while at Willow Care Nursing Home. He was 76 years old.

Sam L. Carlson went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 15, 2016, after a short courageous fight with cancer. Sam was born October 13, 1939 into the family of Hans O. Carlson and Margaret E. (Gustafson) Carlson in Salina, Kansas. Sam graduated from Lindsborg Kansas High School and continued his education, receiving degrees from Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas; Emporia State, Emporia, Kansas; and Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois. He spent thirty-six years in the field of education as a classroom instructor, counselor, and administrator. His professional career ended with retirement in 1997 after twenty years as an elementary principal in Willow Springs. After retirement, he spent many hours at the farm working with and watching his charolais cattle.

Sam is survived by his wife of 48 years, Betty; son, Derek Carlson of Tecumseh, MO; grandsons, Alex and Brady of Springfield, MO; sister, Sonya Smith of Mission Hills, KS; nephew, Scott Smith (Cynthia) of Lawrence, KS; nieces, Laura Faulkner (Owen) Bucyrus, KS; and Stephanie Kissick (Rob) Leawood, KS; and a host of many friends.

Preceding Sam in death were his parents; grandparents, Walter and Alma Gustafson, and a special brother in law, Harold "Cotton" Smith.

A visitation for Sam will be held Friday, January 22, 2016 from 12:30 P.M.- 2:00 P.M. at the First Baptist Church, located at 402 Harris Street in Willow Springs. The funeral service will immediately follow the visitation at 2:00 P.M. Interment will be held at Steely's Chapel Cemetery located on Steely Chapel Road in Elk Creek, MO.

In lieu of flowers, Sam requested that memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Willow Springs; Willow Springs Scholarship Fund; St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis, TN; or the American Cancer Society. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home. On-line condolences for the family may be made at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Steely's Chapel Cemetery

Steely Chapel Road
Elk Creek, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

JAN 22. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Alexander Taylor lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Alexander Taylor - August 04, 2025 at 11:24 AM

NF

“ What. Wonderful man tht will be mixed by all communities. Thoughts nod prayers to the family.



Nancy Kile Foster - January 18, 2016 at 12:36 PM



“ Lance Simon lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Lance Simon - January 17, 2016 at 11:53 PM

SR

“ Shawna Rose lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



shawna rose - January 17, 2016 at 06:48 PM

SC

“ Sam was a wonderful caring person. He cared for the children in our school and he cared for his teachers. He was a wonderful Principal. I have many wonderful memories of Sam and Betty when I was a teacher at Willow. His wry humor will be missed. After he and I retired, I would run into Sam every once in while at the store and we would visit about the farm. I will miss him greatly. My condolences to the family and of course to Betty.

Shirley Collins - January 17, 2016 at 05:53 PM

CC

“ Christy Carr lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Christy Carr - January 17, 2016 at 12:17 PM



“ Ronda Kupitz Anderson lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Ronda Kupitz Anderson - January 17, 2016 at 08:29 AM

PT

“ Pam Tipton lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Pam Tipton - January 17, 2016 at 06:17 AM

MM

“ Sam always had a great smile and something great to say to help us get through the day.

Mike Moyer

Mike Moyer - January 16, 2016 at 11:38 PM

RO

“ Renea Ostermiller lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Renea Ostermiller - January 16, 2016 at 11:37 PM

SS

“ Sharon Stuart lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Sharon Stuart - January 16, 2016 at 10:37 PM

 Bobbi Gregory

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bobbi Gregory - January 16, 2016 at 10:01 PM

KB

“ Prayers for the Carlson family

Kyle Baker - January 16, 2016 at 09:43 PM

WT

“ Warren & Donna Taylor lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Warren & Donna Taylor - January 16, 2016 at 08:14 PM

OB

“ You touched so many lives by the way you lived, 3 of those were my children. It was a privilege to know you.

Olive Bowen - January 16, 2016 at 08:01 PM

BG

“ Bobbi Gregory lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



Bobbi Gregory - January 16, 2016 at 07:44 PM

TM

“ Mrs. Carlson and Derek I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Carlson touched the lives of many people and I'm so proud to say I was one of them. He will be truly missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless you both.

Tammy Meal - January 16, 2016 at 07:05 PM

TM

“ *Tammy Meal lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson*



Tammy Meal - January 16, 2016 at 06:57 PM

SB

“ *Betty so sorry to hear this. Sam was such a great guy. Always loved when you stopped to visit at my door. Love and prayers to you Sharon Bales*


Sharon bales - January 16, 2016 at 06:18 PM

LD

“ *Betty and Derek, so sorry for your loss. Always will remember Sam waving as we passed your home on Walnut Street, we traveled that street many times a day. Know he now looking down on us, free of pain.*



Linda Daugherty - January 16, 2016 at 06:03 PM

 Bobbi Gregory

“ Sam and Betty made a great impact on the children they met. I am one of the lucky ones whose life was touched by both of them. Sam always had a hug for me growing up. No matter what was going on, he always had a funny story to tell us at work. He never left without giving me a hug, even if it meant waiting a few minutes until I could get off a phone call. I will never forget one of our Appreciation Cookout we had, Sam told me to make sure he won a flower, because Betty needs a flower near her front door. Much to our surprise, his name was the next called for a flower! We all had a good laugh. I'll miss you Sam, but I know you are in paradise with our Lord. I'll see you again someday until then I miss my friend!



Bobbi Gregory - January 16, 2016 at 05:56 PM

S-

“ Shelly Jane Wilson -gambill lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



shelly jane wilson -gambill - January 16, 2016 at 04:51 PM

LI

“ Lindajohnson lit a candle in memory of Sam L. Carlson



lindajohnson - January 16, 2016 at 03:24 PM

JW

“ *Jean And James Worley lit a candle in
memory of Sam L. Carlson*



jean and james worley - January 16, 2016 at 01:23 PM