



Ola Lucille (Williford) Merrill

April 21, 1927 - November 18, 2010

Ola Lucille (Williford) Merrill, daughter of Oliver C. Williford and Anna (Burton) Williford on April 21, 1927 in Wapanucka, Oklahoma.

Ola and her family moved to Arkansas shortly after her birth. She attended elementary schools in Conway, Cabot and Enola. After Ola's Mother Anna died, Ola, her Father, and her three siblings moved to Waynesville, Missouri when she was twelve years old. Ola attended Waynesville Schools where she later met her husband to be.

Ola Williford was united in marriage to Bert W. Merrill on April 25, 1942 in Tuscumbia, Missouri. They were blessed with six sons: Bert, Jr., Fred, Tommy, Kenneth, Jimmie and Ralph. Although times were difficult during those early years, Ola and Bert made a loving home for the boys along with many wonderful memories. Bert preceded Ola's death in 1961.

Ola was a long-time employee of the Waynesville R-VI School District. She served as a cook for both Fort Leonard Wood and East Elementary schools. Needless to say, having had six growing boys, she knew her way around a kitchen. Like most people would like to do, Ola did, she loved to eat her dessert first. Pecan pie was her favorite, but she made the best bread pudding ever!

Ola was an active and devoted member of Westside Baptist Church of Waynesville. She served in many capacities including Sunday School Teacher, working in the nursery, singing in the choir or driving the "Church Ladies" to different activities and events throughout the area. Her favorite was "Gospel Singing" events.

Ola loved to sing. She not only sang for residents of area nursing homes, she introduced an entire program for them called the "Minnie Band". She had a Minnie Pearl costume including the hat with price tag. She sang, played harmonic guitar and "worsh board". It was hard to tell who enjoyed the programs the most, the residents or Ola!! As a health allowed she would sing "Amazing Grace" to the residents and staff at Life Care of Waynesville.

Ola went to be with her Lord Thursday evening, November 18, 2010, at Life Care Center of Waynesville. She attained the age of 83 years, 6 months and 28 days. All those whom lives were touched by Ola will greatly miss her warm smile and generous heart.

Ola is survived by five sons: Bert Merrill, Jr. (Peggy) of Wetumpka, Alabama, Fred Merrill (Glenda) of Belle, Ken Merrill (Sandy), Jimmie and Ralph Merrill all of Waynesville; five grandchildren: Latisha (Kent) Moon, Tajah Merrill, Stacie (Clay) Cummings, Tysha Merrill and Kenton Merrill; three great grandchildren: Maris Moon, Elle Moon and Cate Cummings; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her son, Tommy; her grandson, Shannon "Heath" Merrill; and sister, Ruby Willis.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, November 22, 2010 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory with Pastor Lindell Shelden officiating. Pianist Becky Lercher accompanied Soloist Mike Freeman as he sang "One

Day At A Time” and “Amazing Grace”. Serving as escorts were Bert Merrill, Jr., Fred Merrill, Ken Merrill, Jimmie Merrill, Ralph Merrill and Kenton Merrill.

Burial followed in the Waynesville Memorial Park Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Ola Merrill and may be left at the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Ola Lucille (Williford) Merrill*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - November 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ola Lucille (Williford) Merrill*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Ola's passing...She was a wonderful lady,with a beautiful voice...It was wonderful to listen to her sing...(I remember Ola when I worked as a CNA at Life Care Center..) I will never forget her,and her beautiful smile...Now she sings in Heaven with the Angels...God Bless All of you,at this time..And always..##imported-begin##Margaret De Vido##imported-end##*

November 28, 2010 at 08:44 PM



“ *SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. sHE WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL LADY GOD bless you all.##imported-begin##Linda Hendrix##imported-end##*

November 25, 2010 at 09:59 PM



“ Miss Ola will always be one of the finest, kindest, most lovely Christian ladies in my memory. As a young teenager, I enjoyed working in the kitchen with her at camp several times. Growing up, I always admired her very much. God bless all the family during these days.##imported-begin##Linda (Dye) Redmond##imported-end##

November 23, 2010 at 11:01 AM



“ Ken I am sorry to hear about your mom. We are all thinking about you with you loss. If you need anything you know where I am.##imported-begin##Kelli Estes##imported-end##

November 22, 2010 at 09:41 PM



“ I have so many great memories of your mother from Westside. She was always so sweet and kind and I'm sure she is rejoicing in heaven now. I hope you feel God's peace and healing as you deal with your loss.##imported-begin##Linda Dudley##imported-end##

November 21, 2010 at 05:15 PM



“ Ola was a faithful Christian and mother. It was a privilege to be her pastor at Westside in many years ago, 1967-1977.##imported-begin##Rev. Bill And Lillie Dudley##imported-end##

November 21, 2010 at 04:25 PM



“ Ola was a very special lady. I remember working with her at vacation bible school and she had such great patience with all of us beginners, teaching us how to do it right. She is in heaven and enjoying every minute of it.##imported-begin##Vickie and Dennis Dye##imported-end##

November 21, 2010 at 03:47 PM



“ I am so sad to hear we lost Auntie Ola. She was always so kind and that is a quality not many have. I will always remember her gentle spirit.

Love always

Susan Quick-Howser

(Al & Nan Quick's daughter)##imported-begin##Susan Quick-Howser##imported-end##

November 20, 2010 at 10:29 PM



“ SO SORRY TO HEAR OF OLA PASSING ON BUT WE ALL KNOW SHE IS WITH THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON . I SHALL NEVER FORGET HER RENDITION OF MINNIE PEARL. MAY GOD COMFORT YOU IN YOUR TIME OF SORROW. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.##imported-begin##LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON##imported-end##

November 20, 2010 at 08:59 PM



“ *Merrill family,
So sorry to hear about your loss. Everyone who knew Ola knew
what a good person she was. Our loss is Heaven's gain. My prayers
are with you all.##imported-begin##Pamela Cox##imported-end##*

November 20, 2010 at 05:53 PM



“ *I am so saddened to hear of the loss of Ola as I remember her from
long ago when I first moved to Waynesville and attended Westside
Baptist Church. She was always cheerful and up-lifting. I will keep
the family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. She
is at home with the Lord.##imported-begin##Marge
Scott##imported-end##*

November 20, 2010 at 11:50 AM



“ *Ken I am thinking of you and so sorry for your loss.
If you need anything I am here for you.##imported-begin##Amy
Asberry##imported-end##*

November 20, 2010 at 10:07 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss. She was a great lady.##imported-begin##Gerald
Roam##imported-end##*

November 20, 2010 at 08:45 AM



“ I knew Ola from working at the Waynesville/St. Robert Senior Center and thru Fern & Sandy. She was one of the friendliest persons I've ever met and had a big smile every time she came in. So sorry for your loss Ken, Sandy & Kenton, my thoughts are with you all.

Leah###imported-begin###Leah Gray-Dochterman###imported-end##

November 20, 2010 at 08:03 AM



“ I remember staying with Ola. She was one of my two favorite babysitters. I'll be thinking of your family.###imported-begin###Ann Hardman###imported-end##

November 19, 2010 at 10:44 PM



“ My heart breaks that Ola had to suffer the last years of her life. I will remember her with much love and gratitude. As a young, working mother, with two children, Ola was my God send. She babysat Ann and Trey and became a dear friend. I send her family all my good thoughts and prayers during this difficult time and I will always remember Ola.###imported-begin###Luge and Paul Hardman###imported-end##

November 19, 2010 at 09:27 PM



“ Jimmie, Ralph, and Ken, Sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. Really enjoyed talking with her when we were at Westside Church. She was a really nice woman. Ben###imported-begin###Ben Lord###imported-end##

November 19, 2010 at 08:03 PM