



## Velma Ruth Gifford

May 5, 2014

Velma Ruth (Sayers) Gifford, daughter of Robert John and Bessie Belle (Bowen) Sayers, was born March 31, 1919, on the family farm in Beaver Township, Humboldt County, Iowa.

She attended Humboldt High School and graduated in May 1935, at the age of sixteen as Salutatorian of her class. Shortly after graduation, she attended business school in Chillicothe, Missouri.

On December 16, 1945, Velma was united in marriage to Elmer Lawrence Gifford in Humboldt, Iowa. They shared 16 years of marriage together and were blessed with six children: Rebecca, Robert, David, Paul, Wayne and Phillip.

Velma was a hardworking woman and took great pride in caring for her family. During her working years, she was employed in several small towns while still in Iowa, as well as Des Moines, Washington, DC, and Ketchikan Alaska. After moving to the Gifford family farm in 1952, she began working at the Pulaski County Memorial Hospital in Waynesville where she spent 18 ½ years, then as a bookkeeper in her son Wayne's law office for 19 years.

At an early age, Velma made a profession of faith and served her Lord faithfully. She served her churches as pianist, secretary, treasurer and song

leader. She also enjoyed mission trips...three overseas in Haiti, Honduras and Ecuador and also in South Dakota and Wyoming. She loved spreading the Gospel of God's love.

Velma went home to be with her Lord Monday, May 5, 2014 in the Houston House of Houston, Missouri having attained the age of 95 years.

In addition to her parents, two brothers and one sister, Velma was preceded in death by her husband Elmer and son Phillip Stephen Gifford.

Velma leaves to cherish her memory, five children: Rebecca Atwell (Ken) of Hurst, TX, Robert Gifford of Licking, MO, David Gifford (Anne) of Colleyville, TX, Paul Gifford (Sharon) of Laquey, MO and Wayne Gifford (Linda) of Laquey, MO; one sister: Jean Eastman of Humboldt, IA; several grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

She will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all that knew and loved her.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 8, 2014 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with Pastor Robert Gifford and Pastor Jonathan Atwell officiating. The songs "Amazing Grace" and "Because He Lives" were played. Serving as escorts were Velma's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Burial followed in the Fairview Cemetery of Laquey, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

Sterling Road  
Laquey, MO 65534

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

## Service

MAY 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Velma Ruth Gifford*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Barbara Lewis sent a virtual gift in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford*



**Barbara Lewis** - June 07, 2014 at 10:50 AM



“ *SARA JONES lit a candle in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford*



**SARA JONES** - May 10, 2014 at 11:40 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



**Jim Sayers** - May 08, 2014 at 05:56 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Jim Sayers** - May 08, 2014 at 05:55 PM

JJ

“ *Although we cannot be present to celebrate Aunt Velma's life, our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Joe and Jessica Jones, Titus, Malachi, and Charis*

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**Joseph Jones** - May 08, 2014 at 09:38 AM

DC

“ *We are praying for your family. Mrs. Gifford was a witness for the Lord to all she met. We are in Texas visiting Joe & Jessica & kids. Sorry we can't attend the service.*

*Dennis & Ann Crowder*

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**Dennis Crowder** - May 08, 2014 at 09:34 AM

HB

“ *May you always look to the Lord our God for strength and comfort during this season of bereavement!*



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**Harold and Brigitte Burleson** - May 08, 2014 at 08:40 AM

MN

“ I so appreciated your mother, she was so supportive to this young teacher in Richland High School. She and her children are part of the good memories I enjoy upon reflection on those years. May God Bless all of you, He is your strength! Mr Noe

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**Mr Noe** - May 08, 2014 at 07:23 AM

AC

*I remember meeting Velma and having a wonderful visit with her as we planned for a mission trip to Wyoming many years ago. I was so impressed with her depth of spiritual commitment, that I found her an inspiration to me. I am sure she is rejoicing in Heaven with her Lord now. I am praying for the Lord to comfort all the family as you work through your grief and adjust to your loss. May you cherish your memories and be blessed with your pictures of her.*  
*Annette & Bill Catts*

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**Annette Catts** - May 09, 2014 at 05:08 PM

PH

“ I knew Velma all my life. She and mom shared the piano at Fairview. I remember when going home with Rebecca after church....they milked cows like daddy did and she had all this cream and it was the first time I ever tasted that delicious homemade Peanut Butter Ice cream...it was so yummy. I never tasted any before or any better since. After Debbie passed away she came and told me that now Debbie and Phillip were enjoying heaven together. Now Velma and mom are playing and singing with them once again...with our Lord. It's hard kids...I know...but we'll all rejoice again soon when we all will be playing and singing again in heaven.  
*Patsy (Quesenberry) Hays*

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**Patricia (Quesenberry) Hays** - May 08, 2014 at 06:06 AM

PH

“ Patricia (Quesenberry) Hays lit a candle in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford



Patricia (Quesenberry) Hays - May 08, 2014 at 05:59 AM

TS

“ Traci Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford



Traci Smith - May 07, 2014 at 03:07 PM

JW

“ Jerri Williams/Shreve sent a virtual gift in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford



Jerri Williams/Shreve - May 07, 2014 at 02:32 PM

JW

Mrs. Gifford was a wonderful woman and I am proud to say that I worked with her for many years @ PCMH. She touched many lives and was loved by all. She will be missed by many here but I am sure she is rejoicing @ this time with her loved ones and her Heavenly Father! May God comfort the family and loved ones.

Jerri Williams/Shreve - May 07, 2014 at 02:39 PM

EO

“ I remember Velma as a warm and friendly person. I enjoyed the visits I had with her over the years. She lived her life as the Christian she is. Esther O'Dell, sister-in-law.

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**Esther O'Dell** - May 07, 2014 at 01:11 PM

PS

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Gifford Family

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**Pam Seda** - May 07, 2014 at 10:53 AM

“ I found this today, written by Aunt Velma after the death of her husband Elmer Gifford in 1962.

*I think her words can bring comfort: "...we are all Christians, and look to the time when we will be reunited with Elmer in our Heavenly home, and look upon the face of the Saviour who loved us and gave Himself for us."*

*Written May 19, 1962, after Elmer's death  
Plato, Missouri  
May 19, 1962*

*Dear Friends and Loved Ones,*

*"Fear thou not for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God." Isaiah 41:10.*

*This was the verse the Lord gave me Friday evening, May 4, as the ambulance sped toward Lebanon, carrying Elmer to the hospital after a fall from the second story roof of a neighbor's house, which he was helping shingle after a hail storm. He was unconscious until Saturday afternoon, when he began to recognize some of us. By Sunday afternoon he seemed considerably improved. However, about 9:30 that night, he started having convulsions. At 3:00 a.m. Monday, again unconscious, he was taken to St. John's hospital in Springfield, where he was under the care of a brain specialist, as his skull was fractured. All day Monday he was in critical condition. Tuesday morning he was slightly improved, and by afternoon began to recognize us at times. Wednesday he was more improved and was moved from the intensive care unit to a regular hospital room. Thursday and Friday he continued to improve and recognized us and talked to us, although at times his mind was not clear. Friday noon the doctor told me that if he continued as he had been, he would be walking and able to be home in a week, and doing normal work in about eight weeks.*

*I came home on Friday night to be with the children, as his sister Ida planned to spend the weekend in Springfield. On Saturday morning his sister Esther, who lives in Springfield, telephoned a neighbor and asked them to come and tell me that Elmer had had severe pain in his chest and both arms. The doctor thought it was either a massive heart attack or blood clot in the heart. He lived only about 25 minutes. An autopsy was performed and the preliminary report showed blood clots in the lungs. A complete report will not be available for 4 to 6 weeks.*

*Some of you I do not seem to get around to write to except at Christmas time, and I thought you would want to know. Elmer was a Christian for 30 years, so have great comfort in knowing he is now with the Lord he loved. The last Sunday he was with us at church, he had the pleasure of seeing our six-year-old Wayne saved, and that afternoon both Wayne and Paul were baptized. Except for little Phillip, who is only 2 1/2, we are all Christians, and look to the time when we will be reunited with Elmer in our Heavenly home, and look upon the face of the Saviour who loved us and gave Himself for us.*

*Please remember us in prayer as we face the problems of training six children, caring for the farm, cattle, hogs, etc. I do not yet know how much of the stock we will be able to keep, or whether we will stay here. We are a mile from the mail box and school bus. We have the summer to decide what to do. The children are milking 16 cows morning and evening, and that would not be practical during school. Neighbors have been so very good, bringing food, helping with the children, washing and ironing, and giving financial assistance. My two sisters were with us from Monday morning until Friday afternoon. The funeral was Tuesday afternoon, May 15. The church ladies served dinner and supper at the church. There were 33 lovely floral offerings and many gifts of money. Some of these were memorials, so Elmer will live on as this is used in Christian work.*

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15.*

*In Christian love,  
Velma - Rebecca, 15; Robert, 12; David, 10; Paul, 8; Wayne, 6, and  
Phillip, 2.*

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**Jim Sayers** - May 07, 2014 at 09:18 AM

KT

“ *Our sympathy goes out to the Gifford family. She was a fine lady. The Giffords were our neighbors growing up in the Laquey community. In spite of being a single parent, all of her children made something of themselves. She is with Phillip and her husband who passed away many years ago. May God bless her and them. Karen Landreth Leonard and Jeff Leonard, Laquey teachers.*

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**Karen and Jeff Leonard, Laquey teachers** - May 06, 2014 at 06:50 PM

MB

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Velma' death. I enjoyed visiting with her when I called on Wayne while I had KJPW. She tried also hard to keep Wayne in line!*

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**Millie Brotherton** - May 06, 2014 at 04:03 PM

SL

“ *Stephanie Leuthen lit a candle in memory of  
Velma Ruth Gifford*



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**Stephanie Leuthen** - May 06, 2014 at 03:51 PM

JD

“ *Juanita Dippert lit a candle in memory of  
Velma Ruth Gifford*



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**Juanita Dippert** - May 06, 2014 at 01:03 PM

HF

“ *I have a lot of memories of the Elmer & Velma Gifford family while  
growing up in the Fairview Community. Velma was a very gracious  
lady. My sympathy to her family.*

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**Helen Dye Fleischer** - May 06, 2014 at 12:59 PM

LG

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Linda Gifford** - May 06, 2014 at 11:06 AM

LG

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Linda Gifford** - May 06, 2014 at 11:01 AM

TC

“ *Tammie Cooley lit a candle in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford*



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**Tammie Cooley** - May 06, 2014 at 10:40 AM

MS

“ *MARLIN STEVENS sent a virtual gift in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford*



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**MARLIN STEVENS** - May 06, 2014 at 10:24 AM



“ *Robert Payne lit a candle in memory of Velma Ruth Gifford*



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**Robert Payne** - May 06, 2014 at 10:04 AM