



Ruth Wanda Gentry

July 22, 1943 - August 6, 2024

Ruth “Wanda” Gentry, 81, of Washington, formerly of Le Roy, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at Carle Health – Proctor Hospital in Peoria after a long illness. She was born on July 22, 1943 in Maple Grove Ridge, Kentucky, a daughter of Russell Payne and Christine (Sowder) Payne. Wanda married Bentley Junior “Ben” Gentry on December 28, 1957 in Mount Vernon, Kentucky. He preceded her in death on July 6, 2024 in Washington.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; one son, David Harold Gentry; two sisters, Elva Lena and Verla; and two brothers, Elsie and Arie.

Wanda is survived by her two children, James “Darrell” (Pam) Gentry of Tremont and Cathy Lynn (Mike) Kobylarz of Peoria Heights; one daughter-in-law, Crystal Gentry of Gibson City; two sisters, Brenda Pelletier of Maysville, Kentucky and Lorene (Jay) Dick of Loveland, Ohio; three brothers, Claude (Pat) Payne of Cincinnati, Ohio, Robert (Lucy) Payne of Broadhead, Kentucky and Dennis Payne of Mount Vernon, Kentucky; 17 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was a longtime member of the United Church of God and her church

friends were like family to her. Wanda was a very sweet, sensitive, loving and caring little lady and loved her family and friends very much. She will be missed by all that knew her. Wanda had the cutest laugh and always warm hugs.

Wanda's celebration of life service will take place at a later date. Cremation has been entrusted to Schmidt-Haller Burial & Cremation Services in Peoria.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Pete Foundation at <https://www.thepetefoundation.org/donate>

Online condolences may be shared with Wanda's family at www.SchmidtHaller.com

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Ruth "Wanda" Gentry please visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

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“ August 12 at 03:28 PM\n\nI knew Wanda for several years and the first time I met her, I was like her best friend. I will always remember the incredible out pouring of love she displayed.\n\nWhat a wonderful lady.\n\nsteve

Steve Sammet - August 14, 2024 at 02:00 PM