



Mary Ellen Gray Cheek

August 25, 1934 - October 6, 2021

Mary Ellen Gray Cheek, 87, of Morrilton, Arkansas, passed away Wednesday, October 6, 2021. She was born in Linn County, Kansas in 1934. She is the daughter of John Wolfinger and Jessie Ellen Cross Wolfinger. She graduated from Linnville Schools in Pleasanton, KS and graduated from college at Kansas State University. She married Norman Gray and they relocated to Georgia while Norman served in the military. After Norman completed his military service and his veterinarian, they chose Morrilton, Arkansas to call home and open the Veterinarian clinic. She was an active member of the community and devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Morrilton.

While being a mother and grandmother was her number one joy, she was a spirited lady with an entrepreneurial spirit. She managed her family farm and homestead throughout her life and also opened "The Fabric and Drapery Shop" in downtown Morrilton. Her grandchildren have fond memories of playing hide and seek between the drapery displays as their grandmother worked behind the counter. Mary Ellen was also known for her delicious cooking. She prided herself on being able to nurture her family and friends through her pies and cakes. There was no limit to the love and support that she gave her children and grandchildren, as they were her greatest blessing in her life.

Mary Ellen is preceded by her parents John & Jessie Wolfinger; her first husband Norman Gray; son Franklin John Gray, and daughter in law Cindy Gray. She is survived by Grandchildren; Franklin John Gray, Jr and wife Mandy Gray of Little Rock, AR; Joseph Robert Gray and wife Stephanie Gray of Fayetteville, AR; daughter Jessie Ellen Gray of Pensacola, FL. Also survived by grandchildren Georgia Katherine Gray of Little Rock, AR and Joseph Robert Gray Jr of Fayetteville, AR.

Mary Ellen is also preceded by her second husband, William "Bill" Cheek of Morrilton; survived by children William "Bill" Cleo Cheek, III of Maumelle, AR, George Richard Cheek of Fort Worth, TX, James Earl Cheek and wife Michelle of Morrilton, AR and Laura Cheek Larson and husband David of Maumelle, AR.

A small, private gathering will be held in honor of Mary Ellen for immediate family members only. Friends wishing to honor her are invited to make a donation in her name to the First United Methodist Church of Morrilton, AR.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Ellen Gray Cheek*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Eternal Paradise was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Gray Cheek.*



October 13, 2021 at 08:29 AM



“ *Concrete Solutions purchased the White Sympathy Baskets for the family of Mary Ellen Gray Cheek.*



Concrete Solutions - October 13, 2021 at 08:25 AM



“ *Concrete Solutions purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Mary Ellen Gray Cheek.*



Concrete Solutions - October 13, 2021 at 08:18 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Gray Cheek.*



October 11, 2021 at 07:05 PM



“ *"One of Kind" doesn't even come close, and Ed Massey was my father !! I grew up around Mary Ellen and Dr. Gray. Mary Ellen was always nice to me and a good friend to my mother. I think my first job was for Mary Ellen at the Fabric Shop. I remember one day she told me I was going to have to pick it up a notch climbing a ladder (I was in a cast). She was right on the money as always !! It was always a pleasure to catch up when I saw her at Wal Mart or in Conway and I loved it when she would come to the annual meetings at Fish Lake. In spite of the losses she suffered she was always upbeat and always bragging on her grandchildren. What a life well lived.*

Mike Massey

Michael Massey - October 11, 2021 at 05:31 PM

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“ I worked for Mary Ellen at the Fabric and Drapery Shoppe and to say that she loved her grandchildren is an understatement. One morning at work, Joseph had been dropped off at Mother’s Day Out at the Methodist Church. It was soon discovered that his favorite blanket was not with him and he needed it for his nap later in the morning. I had opened the store while Mary Ellen and her friend, June, drank a cup of coffee at Mom and Pops. When she got to the shop, she immediately went to the sewing machine and made an identical blanket to take to Joseph before nap time! She bragged on Jessie for her climbing abilities. Mary Ellen had lots of stories about her climbing the tallest tree or climbing to the top of the roof. John was bragged on for his sports and later for his intellectual achievements.

She was one of a kind and will be missed.

Denice Schuler

Denice Schuler - October 10, 2021 at 09:02 PM