



## Carolyn Ann Wilnerd

June 24, 1934 - January 11, 2025

Carolyn Ann (Base) Wilnerd, age 90, a nurturing mother of 7 and a retired passionate elementary school teacher, passed away Saturday, January 11, 2024 at the Eureka Nursing Center surrounded by family. Early that morning, Carolyn was welcomed into the beautiful gardens of heaven.

Carolyn was born June 24, 1934 at Saint Rose Hospital in Great Bend, Kansas to parents Leo Wesley Base and Evelyn (Unruh) Base, joining her older sibling, Larry in the family home in Dundee, Kansas. Carolyn attended grade school in Dundee through 8th grade before graduating from Pawnee Rock High School in 1952. By that time, Carolyn had gained 2 more siblings, Betty and Steve.

In her youth, it was apparent Carolyn had a love for children, as a highly respected babysitter and a love for music, taking piano lessons for years, some in Great Bend every Saturday. She attended Fort Hays State University for two years, receiving her 60 hour teaching certificate. Carolyn covered much ground during that time, working in Washington, D.C. for a summer and helping care for her first born nephew.

It was during her last year at Fort Hays that Carolyn met Everett on a blind date. They continued dating during Everett's enlistment in the Army which took him overseas to Germany while Carolyn accepted a position teaching 3rd

grade in Ellsworth, Kansas. The relationship blossomed and Carolyn and Everett were united in marriage on October 27, 1956. They celebrated 61 years together until Everett's passing in 2018.

After teaching 3rd grade in Ellsworth for 2 years, Carolyn rotated her teaching style to 7th grade social studies in Almena, Kansas mid-year when she and Everett moved to his hometown of Norton, Kansas. The following year, Carolyn went on maternity leave with the sprout of their first child, Susan. She returned to education the next year to cultivate the young minds in 1st grade. By the time Everett was assigned as a Game Warden for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission in Jetmore, Kansas, Carolyn and Everett had the start of a spectacular family with an addition of twins (Craig and Carol) and a daughter, Lauri. With 4 young, but hardy children, Carolyn was a busy stay at home mom amongst her everblooming family. It seemed for a while, at least that growing this family was a biennial event, and the Wilnerd garden was incorporating companion planting, for the crop was to be expanded by the birth of number 5 & 6, Amy and Andy. Carolyn was able to substitute teach from time to time in a little country school outside of Jetmore and also another small community "two-teacher" school.

In August of 1965, the population of Howard, Kansas increased by 8 overnight when Everett and Carolyn transplanted their perennials to Elk County. Traveling across Kansas in the family's ornamental pink Rambler station wagon must have been a sight to behold, however it soon became their forever home.

Carolyn began teaching in the Howard School System as a Kindergarten/Music teacher experiencing the consolidation which would move her eventually to both Moline and Severy Elementary. She attended the Howard Christian Church and later the Howard United Methodist Church, lending her voice to the choir, providing creative children's sermons and at

one time coached her daughters' softball team during summer ball.

It seemed the growing season was done for Carolyn's garden, until she and Everett became a hybrid family, with the addition and adoption of Scott, who was Carolyn and Everett's great nephew turned son. It was during this time, Carolyn learned that in order for her to continue teaching with her 60 hour certificate, she must be working towards an actual teaching degree. She traveled to Emporia State during the summer each day and although it took years to complete, she graduated from ESU in December of 1981, a year and a half after her daughter, Susan, had received her degree from the same Alma Mater.

Carolyn taught so many children, who through the years, each claimed that they were her favorite student. She retired with honors from the West Elk School System to stay at home and devote time to her family, her own backyard garden, community organizations and events (such as the 9-11 ceremony, community choir and many of the West Elk sports.)

Carolyn brought beauty, growth and grace to everything she touched and her backyard was no different—becoming a wonderland to behold. She was such a positive, kind influence to so many who absolutely adored her.

Carolyn has now joined her husband, Everett, her parents, Leo and Evelyn, two children—Scott and Amy, sons-in-law Joe and Carl, brother Larry, brother-in-law Lanny, sisters-in-law Vi and Elva in her eternal home, where the growing season never ends.

She leaves on earth to continue reaping what she planted:

Her daughters, Susan Galvan, Carol Hernandez, and Lauri Brownfield

Her sons, Craig Wilnerd and Andy Wilnerd

Her grandchildren: Lacey, Corey, Courtney, Sharayah, Devyn, Cameron, Jessica, Laura, Lindsey and George, and 21 greatgrandchildren

A sister, Betty Harvey and brother, Steve Base and many nieces, nephews and cousins along with special friends from Eureka Nursing Center---Evelyn, Scott, Francis, Holly and the staff.

As much as Carolyn loved flowers, she has requested in lieu of them that her memorial be to the Elk County Community Foundation where the harvest will be great with their future endeavors and plantings.

A Celebration of Carolyn's Life will be held Thursday, January 16 at 11:00 am at the Severy United Methodist Church in Severy, Kansas

The family will receive visitors during the visitation on Wednesday, January 15 from 5-7 pm at Countryside Funeral Home, 206 East Washington in Howard, Kansas.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Howard  
206 E. Washington  
P.O. Box 1233  
Howard, KS 67349  
(620) 374-2381

## Service

JAN **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Severy United Methodist Church  
104 N. Greenwood St.  
Severy, KS 67137

# Tribute Wall

KY

“ *Kaye Spurrier Yates lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Wilnerd*



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**Kaye Spurrier Yates** - January 26, 2025 at 08:39 AM

BS

“ *Brian Spurrier lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Wilnerd*



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**Brian Spurrier** - January 16, 2025 at 09:32 AM

SS

“ *Sylvia Spurrier Stites lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Wilnerd*



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**Sylvia Spurrier Stites** - January 16, 2025 at 09:29 AM

ZD

“ *Zhane D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.*

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**Zhane D.** - January 15, 2025 at 02:26 PM

LA

“ May your hearts be soothed knowing Ms. Carolyn's memories shine through each and everyone of you !My sincere condolences  
Lakeyla

Lakeyla - January 15, 2025 at 02:14 PM

AJ

“When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure. “  
Claxton Pecan Team have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.



Asia Jackson - January 15, 2025 at 02:12 PM

AJ

“ Asia J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.

Asia J. - January 15, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.

January 15, 2025 at 12:17 PM

WT

“ Westminster Club Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.

Westminster Club Team - January 15, 2025 at 09:12 AM

WT

“ Westminster Club Team purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



Westminster Club Team - January 15, 2025 at 09:12 AM

LP

“ Love, Maria, Lupe PEREZ purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



Love, Maria, Lupe PEREZ - January 14, 2025 at 04:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



January 14, 2025 at 01:50 PM

FL

“ From : Everyone at RedGuard / LANGE purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



From : Everyone at RedGuard / LANGE - January 14, 2025 at 12:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.*



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January 13, 2025 at 08:54 PM



“ *Prayers from the Wunderlich family Are thoughts and prayers are with you all*



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**Jennifer Wunderlich** - January 13, 2025 at 07:51 PM



“ *Mrs. Wilnerd was an awesome teacher!*

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**Sharon Fickle Moore** - January 13, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *Terri Hubbell Harroald and Tina Hubbell purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.*



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**Terri Hubbell Harroald and Tina Hubbell** - January 13, 2025 at 03:01 PM

LT

“ Love, Kay, Gene, Kevin, Yvonne and Terry purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



Love, Kay, Gene, Kevin, Yvonne and Terry - January 13, 2025 at 02:06 PM

CH

“ Christina & Trystan Hernandez purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



Christina & Trystan Hernandez - January 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



January 13, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.

January 13, 2025 at 09:31 AM

PH

“ I loved talking to her about our plants. She was an awesome lady and I am so proud to have got to know her.



pat Hunt - January 13, 2025 at 07:15 AM

LW

“ Love...Curt and Sherri Wilder purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



Love...Curt and Sherri Wilder - January 12, 2025 at 11:10 PM

TH

“ Her beautiful voice singing in the church choir is something no one could forget if you were lucky enough to be witness to it. What a great and infectious laugh as well.

Terri Hubbell Harroald - January 12, 2025 at 06:43 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.



January 12, 2025 at 06:31 PM

BC

“ *Barbara j Clopton lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Wilnerd*



Barbara j Clopton - January 12, 2025 at 06:17 PM

DW

“ *Danny White purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Ann Wilnerd.*



Danny White - January 12, 2025 at 06:02 PM

SH

“ *Stefni and Dan Hebb lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Wilnerd*



Stefni and Dan Hebb - January 12, 2025 at 05:35 PM

CC

“ *Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Wilnerd*



Chip&Nancy Crum - January 12, 2025 at 03:46 PM