



## Connie E. Ashenfelter-Thiele

April 23, 1948 - September 16, 2025

Connie E. (Billups) Ashenfelter-Thiele, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on September 16, 2025, at the age of 77.

Connie was born on April 23, 1948, in Wichita Kansas and was the middle child of the late Rodney and Naomi (McKenzie) Billups. Connie had a unique bond with her Brothers Darrell and Dennis. She cherished time spent with them and carried love and loyalty to them throughout her life.

On February 18, 1967, Connie united in marriage to Robert W Ashenfelter, at Faith Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, out of that union they raised three children —Darin, Mark, and Jill. After Robert's passing in 1995 Connie married Dale Thiele in 1998.

Connie worked many jobs during her life starting as a bookkeeper at EG Stevens candy warehouse. After moving to Longton, she was employed at Emerson Electric

until its closing in 1997. At the same time Connie selflessly worked evenings at H&R Block as providing for her family was a priority to her.

Determined to continue growing, she returned to school and earned her associate degree in business administration from Colby Community College. Over the years, she worked as an accountant in various roles before retiring. Retirement allowed her to fully embrace her favorite role — Grandmother. Whether for weeks or months at a time, she never missed an opportunity to spend time with the grandchildren gladly and lovingly stepping in for “babysitting duty,” pouring her heart into her grandchildren. Her true calling was being a Grandmother, it was a role she was truly born for. Embracing it with joy, pride, and devotion she spent every waking moment looking for ways to spend more time with her grandkids. Her remarkable ability to make her grandchildren feel uniquely seen, valued, and unconditionally loved is a memory they all share.

One of Connie’s favorite pastimes was family board game times. She spent hours forcing her family to endure watching endless Hallmark Channel movies. She leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering strength that touched the lives of all who knew her. Throughout her life, Connie was known for her

gentle wisdom,  
her infectious laughter, and her devotion to family and friends. Connie  
cherished her  
role as a mother and grandmother, always offering encouragement, support,  
and a  
listening ear. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her memory will  
continue to  
inspire acts of compassion and kindness among those she held dear.

Connie is survived by her spouse, Irvin D. Thiele, brothers, Darrel (Arlene)  
Billups and  
Dennis (the late Nancy) Billups; sister in law Betty (the late Wayne)  
Ashenfelter, Peggy  
Llewellyn, sister-in-law Helen Strait, brother-in-law Lynn (Deb)Thiele,  
Children-Darin  
(Alyssia) Ashenfelter, Mark (Alisa) Ashenfelter, and D. Jill (Michael) Blackburn;  
step-  
children Wendy Brady, Rachel Thiele, Dacia Thiele, Achsah Thiele and Caleb  
Thiele, 13  
grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren. 13 step-grandchildren, and 6 step-  
grandchildren  
And numerous Nephews and Nieces which she cared and loved deeply.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Robert "Bob"  
Ashenfelter,  
with whom she shared 28 years of marriage until his passing in 1995; her  
sister-in-law,  
Nancy Billups; brother-in-law, Wayne Ashenfelter, sister-in-law Sandra  
Simpson and  
granddaughter Karaline Milliken.

Funeral services celebrating Connie's life will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, visitation at 10:00 AM with funeral following at 11:00 AM, Longton Baptist Church on Kansas Avenue in Longton, Kansas. Following the service, she will be laid to rest at Longton Cemetery.

Connie's legacy of love, resilience, faith, and joy will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Longton Kansas Baptist Church Youth Group

# Cemetery Details

## Longton Cemetery

Longton, KS 67352

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
405 Kansas  
Longton, KS 67352

## Service

SEP 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
405 Kansas  
Longton, KS 67352

# Tribute Wall

WB

“ I am so blessed to have had you as my Step Mother. Thank you for always being so wonderful for the ministry to the LORD. Thank you for being so great to my dad, Dale. We were honored to have you in our family, for all the times you came and stayed with us and spent time imparting into our lives the love of the LORD from yours. May your memory be forever blessed!



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Wendy Brady - September 28, 2025 at 09:34 PM

RW

“ Darin and family, so sorry to hear about the passing of Connie. She was a very sweet and loving woman

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Rick White - September 23, 2025 at 01:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Connie Thiele Video



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Countryside Funeral Home - September 23, 2025 at 07:29 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Connie E. Ashenfelter-Thiele.



September 22, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ Todd, Shawna, Alyssa & Colby planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Connie E. Ashenfelter-Thiele.

Todd, Shawna, Alyssa & Colby - September 20, 2025 at 03:22 PM



“ Todd, Shawna, Alyssa & Colby purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Connie E. Ashenfelter-Thiele.



Todd, Shawna, Alyssa & Colby - September 20, 2025 at 03:22 PM



“ Connie and family, what a blessing and honor it has been to be your brother. We know you have suffered from illness for some time, yet you have always had a pleasant disposition. You are a blessing to so many, and we will carry this blessing in our hearts forever. We love you! Darrel & Arlene and our entire family.

Darrel Billups - September 19, 2025 at 06:57 PM

TB

“ The family of Darrel & Arlene Billups purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Connie E. Ashenfelter-Thiele.



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**The family of Darrel & Arlene Billups** - September 19, 2025 at 06:49 PM

MD

“ Matt and Polly Dvorak purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Connie E. Ashenfelter-Thiele.



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**Matt and Polly Dvorak** - September 18, 2025 at 10:16 PM

KF

“ Darren, our hearts go out to you. We're so sorry to hear about your Mom. Always here for you if there's anything we can do just give us a call. Love ya~D&K



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**Kim Friesen** - September 18, 2025 at 09:03 PM

DW

*I am so sorry to hear of Connie's passing. I was recently thinking of her and wondering how she was doing. She was a good friend and co-worker(at Emerson for many years). I even helped her with her 2nd wedding. Sorry I missed the chance to visit with her before, so I guess I will just have to wait until we meet again. Prayers to all of her family. She was a special lady❤️. Debra Walker*

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**DEBRA WALKER** - September 23, 2025 at 12:10 PM



*Darin and family, so sorry to hear of the passing of Connie. She was a very loving and kind woman.*

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**Rick White** - September 23, 2025 at 01:08 PM