



# Margaret Sue Mitchell

August 23, 1942 - February 22, 2024

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If you knew Sue Mitchell, you knew her stunning smile, her sense of style, her open heart, her coy-often flirty-wit, and her boundless sense of fun that lit up any room, occasion, or theater with her beautiful presence and spirited energy. Sue had a flair for fashion, a finesse for decor, and a cunning collector's sense of value—She had an eye for it!

Sue knew how to shop and often finagled family, friends, and acquaintances into joining her in her treasure hunting escapades. What looked like it belonged in the junk pile to some, she knew was a diamond in the rough just awaiting her touch to make it shine and make a little profit. She was the master at persuasion and a smart negotiator which she used to her full potential when she and her friends had Tuesday's Treasures in Moline or the Hippy Chalet with her son in Elk

Falls. She was especially proud of her ability to make a deal mostly because she had just found the perfect thing, she knew either she or you had to have.

Margaret Sue was born August 23, 1942, in Wichita, Kansas, to Margaret Amelia (Atwell) and Robert Kingsley Royer. Her parents and her Gammy were the center of her world until her baby brother John Robert (Bobby) was born five years later. Her connection to Bobby was immediate. Their deep care for each other and daily phone calls were their constant bond.

Sue attended Clark Elementary, Curtis Middle School, and Southeast High School. She often joked that she only went to school and Sunday school for the snacks and crafts. Her love of crafts helped form her career as her first paying job was for the Wichita Park Board teaching children crafts. At her retirement, she was a professional para at the Moline Grade School where was known for brilliantly crafted bulletin boards. During her time as a paraprofessional, Sue also received an associate's degree. She excelled at these jobs because she loved and adored the students and put their needs first.

At Curtis, she met her lifelong friend posse: Connie, Judy, Sharon, Paula,

Margo, Julie, Karen and Marilyn. Who knew back then that they would be there for each other for 69 years—through the joys and sorrows, ironing and dishes, loves and losses, and some even following to the same small town. They formed a sisterhood of mutual love and care for each other. Sue joked that their friendship had lasted so long because after that many years, they knew enough about each other for blackmail.

If you knew Sue, you knew she had a deep love for her children and was a special Gammy Sue to her grandchildren. She was their constant force of love. She was there for the clever birthday parties, the graduations, the bologna or peanut butter/sugar sandwich school lunches, the school outings, and especially the school projects. She was known for her fat free everything, her after appointment visits to KFC, her love of ice cream, and her strawberry fluff.

Gammy's home (petit château, Margaret's mansion) was an especially precious place for her and her family. Gammy enjoyed and dearly loved her home so much and she made it perfectly reflect her inner beautiful and creative soul. Her collections of keepsakes from her mother, her

Gammy Atwell, and thrift store adventures were displayed elegantly throughout the rooms. She shared her home with everyone. Her home was a shelter for her many beloved pets and her home was the destination for family holidays, celebrations, and get togethers complete with enormous pallets for sleepovers and late night TV and snack bingeing.

Gammy Sue was always up for any escapades whether it was trying roller blading after 60, flirting in Vegas, trapping her grandkids in her knees (called a Sue-plex hold), Crazy Days turtle races, parades, and rodeos, manning the Elk Falls Museum, volunteering at the Joseph's Storehouse in Burden, or traveling to Sante Fe, Florida, Colorado, France, and Italy. She enthusiastically joined in on all the adventures when she went to visit the Mitchell-Werp family in Europe from sunbathing on the French River and eating frog legs to hiking through the Tuscan hills seeking medieval villas and dining on black truffle dishes.

Known as Switchboard Sue by her family, her social media prowess was anything but obsolete. She had a ritual where she sat at her table surrounded by two iPads, cell phone, and a dial phone so she could phone, share, post, and message at will. Usually with a fashion or home improvement program to help keep her up to date on the latest news and trends or to track how

far ahead she was on the latest trends. She epitomized the essence of a chic cowgirl long before it graced the trendy streets of LA. She was a social media maven to her family, her friends, her family's friends and her friend's friends, really everyone, and we mean everyone. We will miss her shopping excursions, her commodity runs, the anticipation of her next thrift store finds or DIY project. We will miss her care packages of food and gifts. Whenever anyone mentioned something they might need, she would go on a big search so she could get it for you. We will also miss her cards. A greeting card from Sue wasn't just a card, it was something she customized for you especially. Her message was sent straight from her heart. Every impactful word was underlined and the entire card message was surrounded by a hand-drawn heart and/or little hearts that were weighted with 100% sincerity.

Gammy wanted the best the world had to offer for her children and grandchildren. She encouraged and supported them to pursue their goals. If they were doubtful, she always told them that they could do it and to have positive thoughts. When Blair questioned graduating early and moving to France, when Myles was considering whether his University in Ohio was right for him, when Hayden wanted to study at FIT or Monica to earn her degrees, and so many more

examples, she cheered us all on to take that jump. She wanted us to push ourselves to forever learn and grow into the people we are today, unapologetically!

Gammy kept a quote attached to her bathroom mirror from a note Brooke sent her that says:

“Just living is not enough,” said the butterfly, “one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”

If you knew Sue, you felt the radiance of her shine, the exuberance of her generosity, and her gracious warm welcome into her abundant circle of love. She was a precious flower. She was our precious flower. She genuinely loved hard and with all her heart yearned to love even more.

When Sue’s sickness struck, she waited until each of her children and grandchildren were able to visit, then left as beautifully as she had lived.

She was the most incredible, supportive, and loving mother with the beauty of the Gods and glowing spirit of the angels. Her monumental inner strength and tenderhearted compassion was our porte-bonheur de la vie! Thank you Gammy for your positive empowerment to be happy and achieve our goals—to reach the stars! We are forever grateful she was our

mother,  
grandmother, sister, and friend. She was and remains a TIMELESS ICON  
forever in our hearts!  
XOXOXO!!

Margaret (Gammy) Sue Royer Mitchell died February 22, 2024. She was  
preceded in death by  
her gammy, father, and mother. She is survived by her brother, Bobby of  
Clearwater, FL;

Children: Mitchell of Elk Falls, Monica (Paul Werp) of Milan, Italy, Greg and  
Mandi (Curt Rierson)  
of Wichita; her grandchildren William (Golda) of Goldendale, WA, Hayden of  
Milan, Italy, Myles  
of Wichita, Blair (Louis Guerlet) of Malmo, Sweden and Paris, France, Brooke  
of Washington  
DC, Wren of Wichita; her fur babies, Poppy and Chester of Moline; as well as  
many cousins,  
nieces, nephews, her chosen sisters, adopted daughters, and countless  
friends.

In lieu of flowers, make a donation in Sue's name to the Chautauqua County  
Animal Shelter in  
Sedan, KS or a food bank of your choice. The family celebrated Sue's life  
while they were  
together. Let the celebration continue by sharing your memories of Sue with  
us here:

<https://www.facebook.com/sue.mitchell.186590>

Cremation has been requested at this time. Services are entrusted to  
Countryside Funeral Home and Memorials may be mailed in or left with the

Funeral Home. 206 E. Washington P.O Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ *I was so sad to hear that Sue is no longer with us. She was a very special person whom I came to admire a great deal.*

*Betty Penick*

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**Elizabeth C Penick** - March 07, 2024 at 08:48 AM

PW

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Jr., Monica, Greg and Mandi in the loss of your Mother. Sue was a beautiful person and a wonderful friend to those who were fortunate to know her. She will be missed, but her memory will live on in our hearts. Friends forever. ❤️*

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**Paula Whisenhant** - March 02, 2024 at 06:24 AM