



Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin

July 31, 1935 - July 15, 2018

Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin, passed away from this life after a long fought battle with Alzheimer's at Diversicare of Arab, AL.

Lillis was born July 31, 1935 in Pisgah, AL to Emmett and Nettie Wheeler. She grew up in Pisgah, before moving to Florence to attend the University of North Alabama, where she received her Bachelor's of Science in Education and also her Master's of Science in Education.

She then located to campus housing, at Kate Duncan Smith DAR School, as a young, single, independent career woman to begin her teaching profession. It was during this time, that a handsome, young cookware salesman, Mr. Jack Irwin, made a fateful knock on the door. Jack and Lillis were married in 1958. After several moves around the area, as a young couple, they decided to move back to Grant, AL where they raised their three daughters : Cynthia, Candace and Nancy.

Lillis was a lifelong educator including 31 years as Science and Physical Education teacher at Claysville Jr. High. Where memories of bug, leaf and rock collections, watercress sandwiches and SQUARE DANCING, were lovingly made along with an "occasional" stern look or paddling here or there.

She was also a very active member of First Baptist Church at Grant. Where she served in the many capacities but most notably Sunday School teacher

for 50+ years. Lastly, as the leader of her beloved Lydia Sunday School class.

As not only a teacher but an active learner, she helped to establish and bring Grant Public Library to existence so that all would have the opportunity to read and learn. Her house was a discovery cove of unique flowers and special made walking trails in nature, where she immersed grandkids and all visitors in everything Science and physical activity. Any opportunity lent itself to a hands on learning experience. She participated in dulcimer, line dancing and also took up painting during her retirement years; while taking on role as full-time caregiver to husband, Jack.

Lillis is survived by daughters Cynthia Maples (Woody) of Grant, Candace Irwin of Huntsville, and Nancy Garner (Buddy) of Grant, brother Joe Wheeler (Ila Faye) of Rosalie. Grandchildren, Brandy Maples Hudson (Larry), Shane Maples (Rachel), Taylor Garner and Joshua Garner, and Great-grandchildren Hunter Maples and Grant Maples. Along with a host of nieces and nephews, former students, and Lydia Sunday school members.

She was preceded in death by parents, Emmett and Nettie Wheeler. Brother Emmett Beason Wheeler, Sister Ella Ruth Lamberth, and husband Jack Irwin.

Arrangements Entrusted to Grant Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Free Home Cemetery

Free Home Rd.
Grant, AL 35747

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **17**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Grant Memorial Chapel
4930 Main Street
P.O. Box 484
Grant, AL 35747
(256) 728-2000
grantmemorial@nehp.net
<https://www.grantmemorialchapel.com>

Funeral Service

JUL **18**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Grant
5515 Main Street
Grant, AL 35747

Tribute Wall

JA

“Mrs. Irwin was my favorite teacher. She gave so much more to her students than a classroom education. She was kind, patient, creative and eager to teach us about a world bigger than text books. She took such care in making her classroom a hands-on science museum, and her gym more than a play ground. Thank you for teaching us to respect people and nature.

janet - July 17, 2018 at 09:24 PM



“104 files added to the album LifeTributes



Grant Memorial Chapel - July 17, 2018 at 05:28 PM

JA

“Mrs. Irwin was my favorite teacher! She gave so much more to her students than just a classroom education. She was kind, patient and eager to teach us about a world bigger than text books. She took such care in making her classroom a hands-on science museum, and her gym more than a place to play. Thank you for teaching us to respect people and nature.

janet - July 17, 2018 at 04:09 PM

GL

“ *Grant Public Library lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin*



Grant Public Library - July 17, 2018 at 03:06 PM

CL

“ *Cornutt Farms LLC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin.*



Cornutt Farms LLC - July 17, 2018 at 09:49 AM

EP

“ *Eva Pendergrass lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin*



Eva Pendergrass - July 17, 2018 at 07:11 AM

GW

“ *Gladys Stapler Waddell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin*



Gladys Stapler Waddell - July 16, 2018 at 10:18 PM



“ *ELizabeth Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin*



ELizabeth Kelley - July 16, 2018 at 09:49 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin.*



July 16, 2018 at 08:25 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin.*



July 16, 2018 at 08:20 PM



“ *Ric & Lynda Vranek purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin.*



Ric & Lynda Vranek - July 16, 2018 at 08:12 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Claysville Jr. High



Sheila Helton - July 16, 2018 at 07:54 PM

KH

“ So many memories spending the summers at Aunt Lillis' house swimming in the pool, spending the night, and playing in the basement. Remember one day playing dress-up in the basement with Nancy using Aunt Lillis' pink tulle formal dress. Will and i are keeping all of you in our thoughts as you go through the next few days and in the next weeks as the recent memories of illness are replaced by your memories of her indomitable spirit.

Kristin Lamberth Henson

Kristin Henson - July 16, 2018 at 07:34 PM

KH

“ Kristin Henson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillis Wheeler Irwin



Kristin Henson - July 16, 2018 at 07:27 PM