



Delores Lee Kitchens

August 16, 1935 - March 11, 2025

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, Delores Lee Kitchens who was peacefully called home to be with the Lord on March 11, 2025, at the age of 89 at her home in Salem, Missouri.

Born on August 16, 1935, to Roy and Ruby Taylor in Kansas City, Kansas, Delores was a woman of unwavering faith, strength, and love. She dedicated her life to Jesus Christ, her children, her grandchildren, and, of course, her cherished cats—who were always by her side. She married Steven Kitchens on May 25, 1984. He survives in Salem, Missouri.

Delores was the strongest woman we have ever known. Over the course of her life, she faced tremendous loss, enduring the passing of two husbands, two children, and a great-grandchild.

Despite these heart-wrenching challenges, she remained a pillar of strength and grace, never letting her faith or her love for her family falter. Her resilience, kindness, and unwavering devotion to those she loved continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her. She knew no

stranger and loved her son's friends as though they were her own. She is survived by her loving husband Steven Kitchens: sons Micheal (Dawn) Cox and Tom (Amy) Cox; grandchildren Lewis Holden, Micheal, Gabriel, Andrea, and Stephen Cox; adopted grandchildren Alice Peccati, Joe Hudder, and Vince Chambers—all who will forever carry her memory and the lessons she taught them in their hearts. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, daughter Lynn Holden, son Lewis Holden, and great-grandson Nathan Holden. A celebration of life will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 1pm at the Salem Chapel of the James and Gahr Mortuary, with a Visitation starting at 12pm. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to DOCO Inc Sheltered Workshop in Ava, Missouri. While we grieve her loss, we find peace knowing that she is now in the presence of the Lord, surrounded not only by his love, but those who have been waiting for her.

Cemetery Details

North Lawn Mausoleum

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Service

MAR 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
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jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ Grandma, while I did not know you my whole life, I was not ready for you to leave. We became close in 2017 and I felt like I missed so much but at the same time it felt like I had known you my whole life. I told you back then that I needed 10 more years out of you. We did not quite get that but the years we did get together have been quite memorable. Your love, patience and wisdom have brought years of joy to my life. You were there for me during the worst time in my life with love and compassion when my son passed away as you too know what it was like to be in my shoes. You never judged me and accepted me for who I am. While you are not physically here with us anymore, your memory will live on through all of us. I love you grandma. I'll see you on the other side someday. TIL then, I'll make sure I keep giving Grandpa Steve a hard time for the both of us!

Lewis Holden Jr (grandson) - March 23, 2025 at 11:49 PM

DC

“ She was the mother I always deserved to have and the grandmother my kids adored.

Dawn Cox - March 15, 2025 at 10:23 PM

SK

“ I was taking care of you on the last day of your life with me and I loved you as much on that day as I did on the day you married me. Tears are running down my cheeks right now but know this-I will miss you till the day I die.
Your cats are missing you like crazy. No worries, I'm taking care of them.
Your kids have been aces in helping and your grandkids miss you as much as I do. We're so lucky to be so fortunate.
I'll see you later honey. Your soul mate. Steve-not Steven.

Steven Kitchens - March 15, 2025 at 10:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Delores Lee Kitchens.

March 14, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Delores Lee Kitchens.



March 14, 2025 at 11:13 AM