



## Mary Marie Witzke

April 25, 1930 - November 23, 2023

Mary “Marie” Witzke of St. James, Missouri, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at the St. James Living Center, at the age of 93. Marie was born in Cuba, Missouri, on April 25, 1930, to the late Ben and Anna May (Ringelsen) Souders.

Miss Mary Marie Souders married the love of her life, Mr. Norman Walter Witzke, on November 27, 1948. This union was blessed with two sons. Marie worked for California Manufacturing in St. James for 32 years before she retired. She worked as a Senior Companion for Phelps County from 1993 until 2016. She enjoyed gardening and was known for her “green thumb.” Every spring, Marie would plan her garden and plant the seeds that would soon produce the bounty from which she would can and freeze for the winter months ahead. Marie generously shared her bounty with friends, neighbors, and family. She also had a passion for growing flowers, and her yard was filled with beautiful roses and flowers every year.

Marie was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in St. James; she possessed a faithful servant’s heart and faithfully cared for family and friends through her loving and giving of herself; she was a woman of faith and the heart of the Witzke family. Marie loved her monthly trips with her friends from church and especially enjoyed the stop for ice cream that followed on the return trip. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister,

aunt, and friend, and will be forever missed and loved by those she left to cherish her memory.

Marie is survived by her sons, Charles Witzke and wife Kathleen, of Lake Wales, FL, and David Witzke and husband David Cox, of Palm Springs, CA; grandchildren: Lark Brown (Rich), Miranda Williams (Shawn), Serena Witzke, Amber Witzke, Morgan Baldwin (Richard), Charles Witzke (Brittney), Barb Lewis (Nick) and Angie Williams (Arthur); great-grandchildren: Mason Needs (Britney Williams), Jonathan Chase Williams, Maya Baldwin, Sylvia Witzke, Andrew Solberg (Ashley), Brittany Standing (Jacob Miller), Tyler Cardella (Greta), Brooklyn Witzke (Williams); great-great-grandchildren: Zoey Williams-Needs, Layla Standing, and Aurora Cardella; a special niece, Paula Sue Bauman; nephews; and a host of extended family and friends.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Norman Walter Witzke; parents Benjamin Harrison Souders and Anna May Souders nee Ringeisen; brothers Leslie Souders, Floyd Souders, Melvin Souders; and sister, May Larimore.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, December 1, 2023 at 10:00AM at the St. James Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary with Pastor Stephen Brubaker officiating. Interment will follow at Ozark Memorial Gardens with Shawn Williams, Chase Williams, Charles Witzke, David Witzke, and Gavin Jewel serving as pallbearers. A visting for family and friends will be held at the Chapel on Thursday, November 30, 202 from 5-7PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting contributions be made in her memory to the First Baptist Church St James' Senior Adult Ministry.

# Cemetery Details

## Ozark Hills Memorial Gardens

Rolla, MO 65401

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **30**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - St. James

117 Seymour St.

St. James, MO 65559

(573) 265-3232

dcjames@fidnet.com

<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

## Service

DEC **1**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

SE

“ *An obituary cannot convey the beauty of my grandmother's spirit. I had only a short time with her when I was a child, but that time was precious. She was the most kind, loving, and truly selfless person I've ever known. She was full of joy just to see her grandkids, even for a weekend, and I will never forget her loving arms pulling me into her lap.*

*As I grew up, we wrote to each other, and I learned how deeply she was invested in caring for others. Her letters were full of news about the seniors she visited, the errands she ran for them, the activities they did together. She was always on the go, never slowing down, not wanting to disappoint anyone waiting for a visit.*

*It is a truly special person who can experience pain and hardship in their own life and persist with even more determination to lead with kindness. Some measure a legacy in money, influence, or possessions, but my grandmother's legacy is in the hearts she touched, and they are without number.*

*I am making a donation to a national domestic violence fund in her name. Requiescat in pace, sit tibi terra levis. Love, Serena*

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**Serena** - November 30, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Marie Witzke.*



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November 29, 2023 at 05:05 PM

LJ

“ Marie was so very special to me. She could help you accept and move on in life when you experienced grief or pain of any type. God used her to bless me and many others. I will be so happy when I get to see her again in God's kingdom. Marie will never be forgotten by anyone who was blessed to know her. I shall always love and remember you my precious cousin...from Lizzie

Lizzie Johansmann - November 27, 2023 at 03:57 PM

LJ

“ Marie was the most precious lady I ever met. We did not live close so I did not get to see her often but each moment we talked on the phone or could visit are special memories for me. Marie always thought of others and her actions and words encouraged many people, especially me. I look forward to seeing her again someday when my turn comes to join her in Heaven.

Lizzie Johansmann - November 27, 2023 at 02:53 PM

TF

“ The Souders Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Marie Witzke.

The Souders Family - November 25, 2023 at 07:02 PM

TF

“ The Souders Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Marie Witzke.



The Souders Family - November 25, 2023 at 07:02 PM