



Sharon Kay Forness

May 12, 1943 - July 19, 2025

Sharon Kay Forness, 82, of Rolla, Missouri, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones.

Born on May 12, 1943, in Rolla, Missouri, Sharon spent her life in the Ozarks, where she was deeply rooted in the community and found joy in the beauty of nature and the comfort of home. She received her education locally, completing high school and attended Missouri State University in Springfield. Sharon had a remarkable eye for beauty and design. She worked closely alongside her beloved husband, Warren Forness, designing and decorating the homes he built. Her creativity and attention to detail made each house a warm, welcoming home.

She was a woman of many talents and passions. Sharon was known for her beautiful flower gardens and her love for interior decorating. She had a gift for sewing, lovingly creating handmade Halloween costumes for her grandchildren. A wonderful cook, her fried chicken and Christmas cookies were family favorites and will be fondly remembered. Sharon also loved to travel, always eager for new adventures and experiences. But perhaps most of all, she found joy in her family, and her legacy lives on through them.

Sharon is survived by her children: Krista Chambers and husband Kevin of Rolla, MO; Trevor Forness and spouse Michelle of St. James, MO; Nathan Forness and spouse Niki of Des Peres, MO; and Mendy Kell and spouse Shannon of Rolla, MO. She is survived by her sister, Barbara Watkins, and her sister-in-law, Jean Watkins. She is also survived by her grandchildren:

Jake (Camerin) Fester, Garrett Fester, Kaleb (Hannah) Chambers, Alexis (Corey) McComas, Ben Forness, Cameron Forness, Molly Kell, and Padric Kell; along with six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Christine Watkins; her husband, Warren Forness; her brothers, Kenneth Stevens, Robert (Bob) Watkins and Sam Watkins; her sister, Sandra Watkins; and her sister-in-law, Reba Stevens.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Rolla Animal Shelter, <https://www.rollacity.org/shelter-home.shtml>

Sharon's life was one filled with love, creativity, and grace. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Rolla
1651 E. Hwy 72
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 458-2262
jgrolla@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Rolla
1651 E. Hwy 72
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 458-2262
jgrolla@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Interment

JUL **24** (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery
St. James, MO

Tribute Wall

TP

“ The Office of Sponsored Programs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sharon Kay Forness.

The Office of Sponsored Programs - July 23, 2025 at 10:22 AM

TP

“ The Office of Sponsored Programs purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



The Office of Sponsored Programs - July 23, 2025 at 10:22 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



July 23, 2025 at 09:50 AM

MK

“ Much love, Kathy purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



Much love, Kathy - July 23, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



July 22, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sharon Kay Forness.

July 22, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



July 22, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ Sharon Ransom and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sharon Kay Forness.

Sharon Ransom and Family - July 22, 2025 at 11:12 AM

SF

“ Sharon Ransom and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



Sharon Ransom and Family - July 22, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



July 22, 2025 at 10:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sharon Kay Forness.

July 22, 2025 at 10:35 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Sharon Kay Forness.



July 21, 2025 at 08:28 PM