



Shirley Lea Isbell

May 18, 1937 - November 11, 2024

Shirley Lea Isbell, affectionately known as "Cookie," of St. James, Missouri, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 11, 2024, at the Phelps Health Hospital in Rolla, Missouri, at the age of 87.

Born in Phelps County, Missouri, on May 18, 1937, Shirley was the daughter of Elmer and Eveline (Martin) Erickson, who preceded her in death. On October 18, 1954, she married JC Isbell, and together they raised three sons. Shirley's deep love for her family and her community was evident in everything she did.

Shirley spent over 22 years working in the kitchen at the Rolla Public Schools, earning the beloved nickname "Cookie" for her warm spirit and caring nature. Outside of her professional life, she was known for her unwavering faith and her active involvement in her church. A long-time member of the Rolla Church of Christ, Shirley loved to sing and write about Jesus. She wrote numerous articles for the church's newsletters and bulletins, sharing her faith with the congregation.

Her love for children was also reflected in her work with 4-H and Vacation Bible School, where she gave her time and talents to help young minds grow. Shirley's love for her church family was immeasurable, and she could always be counted on for a helping hand, whether it was cooking for church camp or

organizing events for the Ladies Friendship Club.

In addition to her passion for her faith and family, Shirley was an avid ham radio operator, where she was known by her radio name, "Happy Lady." Her kindness, generosity, and joyful spirit touched the lives of all who knew her.

Shirley leaves behind her sons, Stanley Isbell and wife, Renee, of Independence, MO, and Ronnie Isbell of St. James, MO; her special cousin, Michelle Adams of Rolla, MO; a dear friend, Cathy Cassidy of Rolla, MO; and many other cousins, extended family members, and beloved friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, JC Isbell, in 2002; her son, Steve Isbell, in 2020; and her sister, Helen Erickson.

A funeral service to celebrate Shirley's life will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the Rolla Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary. Brothers Ty Kalisz and Andrew Cassidy will officiate. Interment will follow at the Rolla City Cemetery. Visitation for family and friends will be held at the chapel from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

Shirley's legacy of faith, love, and service will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her. May she rest in peace, surrounded by the love of her Savior and the promise of eternal life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Shirley's memory to the Rolla Church of Christ.

Cemetery Details

Rolla Cemetery

1601 E Hwy 72
Rolla, ND 65401

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Service

NOV **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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