



Jean Crane

July 13, 1933 - July 20, 2024

Jean (Wittenbrink) Crane, 91, of Herrin, Illinois, passed away on July 20, 2024, with her daughter holding her hand until God led her home. She was born on July 13, 1933, in Boyd, Illinois, the daughter of Emil and Flossie (Stone) Wittenbrink. On March 26, 1954 at Boyd Christian Church, she married her childhood sweetheart, Charles D. Crane, who passed away on December 22, 2017. She was also preceded in death by parents and siblings, Francis Wittenbrink, Donald D. Wittenbrink, Doris Harmon and niece Karen Davis. Jean had a passion for teaching and dedicated 35 years to educating students in the Mt. Vernon Illinois City Schools. She taught at Grand Prairie Grade School, Summersville Grade School, Rome Grade School, West Salem Grade School and J.L. Buford Elementary. Jean's commitment to education led her to obtain her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education Degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

Jean had many interests and hobbies. She loved her church and friends. She loved sewing and creating handmade items for her family. She also found joy in spending time with her five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, cherishing every moment with them. Jean had a playful side and enjoyed joking around with people, especially her former students.

Throughout her life, Jean found solace and community in her places of worship. She was a Sunday School Teacher at Boyd Christian Church and later attended Southwest Christian Church, Central Christian Church in Mt. Vernon, Illinois and First Christian Church in Herrin, Illinois. She loved our

Lord Jesus and we're confident she was greeted with open arms as she went home.

In her free time, Jean enjoyed various hobbies; including working in her yard, tending to her flowers, and decorating her house. Jean will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched throughout her teaching career and beyond. Her dedication, love, and playful spirit will forever be remembered and cherished.

Jean is survived by her daughter, Marcia Furby and husband Jerry of Clarksville, Tennessee, and her son, Steven Crane, and wife Julie (Stahl) of Carterville, Illinois. She will also be lovingly remembered by her granddaughters; Megan (Furby) Rietman of San Diego, California, and Jenna (Crane) Dusch and husband Jeff of Billings, Montana, as well as her grandsons; Josh Crane, and wife Ali of Mattoon, Illinois, Jerrod Furby of Roscoe, Illinois, and Jake Crane and wife Brittany of Carterville, Illinois. Jean adored her eight great-grandchildren; Lillie Jean Rietman, Charlie Rietman, Kallie Rietman, Blythe Dusch, Nolan Dean Dusch, Briar Crane, Emma Jean Crane, and Maggie Crane with four of them named after her or her late husband, Charlie.

Jean is also survived by her two nieces; Deloris Jean Howard of Sand Springs, Oklahoma and Jeanne Ann Sprehe of Centralia, Illinois, and two nephews; Donald R. Wittenbrink of Dix, Illinois, and Vernon Wittenbrink of Haines, Florida.

Funeral services for Mrs. Crane will be held at 12:00 p.m. (noon), Thursday, July 25, 2024, at Osborn Funeral Home in Dix. Burial will follow at Boyd Cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 25, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until the hour of service, at the funeral home. Memorial gifts may be made to Boyd Christian Church, and will be accepted at the service, or by mail to the Osborn Funeral Home, P.O. Box 130, Dix, Illinois 62830. Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com, or on the Osborn Funeral Home Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

Boyd Cemetery

Dix, IL 62830

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **25**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Osborn Funeral Home
322 North Main Street
Dix, IL 62830
(618) 266-7231
office@osbornfuneral.com
<https://www.osbornfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

JUL **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Osborn Funeral Home
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Tribute Wall

DE

“ *Mrs. Crane was my teacher at Westsalem School. She was the best teacher a person could ask for! She was kind and loving, always had a smile for you! so sorry for your loss! Debbie Benjamin*

DebBenjamin - July 26, 2024 at 06:19 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean Crane.*



July 23, 2024 at 07:29 PM

GF

“ *Glenda F. purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Jean Crane.*



Glenda F. - July 22, 2024 at 11:51 PM

GF

“ *Glenda F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Crane.*

Glenda F. - July 22, 2024 at 11:51 PM

MR

“ My sweet Grandma Jean... you are so treasured. I'm grateful and honored to be your granddaughter, I'm grateful and honored you were the great-grandma to my girls. There is no match to you.

1. You carried yourself with grace. We both tried to carry ourselves with grace and we'd laugh when we weren't so "graceful". When I'd spend the night, I'd always kick off my socks in bed and we'd holler each time, "whew!!"

2. You led by example. I went into teaching and Lillie is also because of you. I remember helping you prepare your classroom for each new school year. I loved being with you at school and you always made me feel so special when I got the chance. You taught me how to cook, how to play piano, how to garden, and how to sew. Most importantly, I saw you reading your Bible every morning. You taught me how to love our Lord, Jesus Christ and to put Him first.

3. You were always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need. This was daily, your eyes were always open to others. There was always room at the table for one more.

4. Pretty sure my stubbornness came from you, but with it, you showed me when it's important to stand for what I believe in, fight for equal rights and fair treatment no matter the circumstances.

Jean, I'll miss you until I see you again. I hope I live a life as well lived and loved as yours and hear the same words when I go Home, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Megan Furby Rietman - July 22, 2024 at 08:12 PM

JC

“ Such a beautiful spirit! I was fortunate enough to have had Jean as my supervising teacher when I did student teaching at J.L.Buford. She was so talented, strong, kind, and understanding with her students. She was the perfect teacher to serve as a pattern for me and others who were fortunate enough to work with her. Charlie was my seventh grade teacher at Woodlawn, and I knew Jean's parents from Boyd . . . all good people!

janice cherry - July 22, 2024 at 05:33 PM

BF

“ Jean was my 5th grade teacher at West Salem. I am now retired from teaching myself. So many of her students were a success and went into teaching with part of that being her influence. In regard to the classroom or as a person, she was often the standard by which others were measured. She was always upbeat, in a good mood and ready to make you smile with her smile. We emailed and talked now and then even up to a few years ago. I sent her a signed copy of my book; she often sent a Christmas card. In fact, I played golf this morning with Gary Price, Marty Cox and Barry Dalmasso - all from that same West Salem Class. She always finished her Christmas Card the same way - tell all "my boys" I said hello. Thank you Mrs. Crane for everything!

Bob Frakes

Bob Frakes - July 22, 2024 at 03:03 PM

BW

“ I'll always remember Aunt Jean as my fifth grade school teacher. It was when the year the Challenger exploded. She taught me to make pottery and to crochet, told me my hand writing reminded her of Aunt Karen's, and confirmed my socks were cool, at least if Steve's were cool then mine were cool, too.

brent wittenbrink - July 22, 2024 at 11:24 AM