



Carol Jean Arnold

August 18, 1941 - January 10, 2023

Mattoon – Carol Jean Arnold, 81, died peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023.

She was born on August 18, 1941, the daughter of the late Wayne and Helen (Lash) Benton. She married Harold Arnold in October of 1963, divorced in October of 1987, and never re-married. She built a blessed life with family and formed lifelong friendships with those she worked with and lived close to.

Carol was a registered nurse and spent her life in service to those in need. She started her career at Decatur Memorial where she worked into the role of Assistant Head Nurse. Following Harold's work, the family moved to Stewartville, MN where she served as Assistant Director at Maple Manor nursing home in Rochester Mn. After her divorce, Carol moved back to Mattoon, town of her birth, and worked at Convalescent Care nursing home where she moved through the hierarchy starting as a floor nurse and ending as the Administrator of the home. She touched countless lives and at every step provided the best quality of life to the most vulnerable among us.

Seeking a change of pace, Carol transitioned to Odd-Fellow Rebekah home where she served as Nurse educator helping those less proficient grow into quality care givers. After a life of service, she retired in 2004 and dedicated her life to family.

Carol enjoyed traveling, scootering, water fights, fireworks, wiener roasts, sipping coffee, visiting with family, and spending time with her puppies Max and Kade. It brought her great joy to spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, attending their sporting events and activities. She was a loving and caring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother with a sweet and sassy presence.

She will be greatly missed and forever in the hearts of those who survive her, including her sister Lynda Luthy, two sisters-in-law, Anne Benton and Brenda Benton, two daughters, Lynda (Larry) Brettin, Mattoon, Angela (Don) Lovell, Charleston, and two sons, William (Dera) Arnold, La Crosse, WI, and Don (Tracey) Arnold, Olympia, WA. Grandchildren; Ryan Brettin, Chelsea Brettin, Nathan (Andrea) Brettin, Niko Brettin, Laura Arnold, Emily Arnold, Benton Arnold, Helen Arnold, Hailie Spivey, Olivia Arnold, Mason Arnold, Ashley (Beau) Scott, Don Lovell Jr., Seth Lovell, Amanda Lovell, 10 great-grandchildren and countless nieces and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Judy Weemer, two brothers, her twin Bill Benton and Ed Benton, and two brothers-in-law, Richard Weemer and William Luthy

A visitation will take place from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Sunday, January 15 and the funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, January 16th, all at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home. Pastor Ron Dickinson will officiate. Burial will take place at Dodge Grove Cemetery.

No words could ever sum up her extraordinary life and no son or daughter could ever ask for a finer mother. Even in her passing, she continued to lead us by example. We continue to mourn our loss but know that heaven welcomed an angel.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **15**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Service

JAN **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
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Tribute Wall



“ *Carol Jean Arnold*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *She was one of the sweetest lady I have met. She also so welcoming to us and my kids. We will miss her dearly. Hugs. I'm so sorry. I wish I could have made it to funeral. I'm so sorry. She was so very nice and also so friendly.*



Christine (Belles) Wright - January 16, 2023 at 03:14 PM



Thank you for your comforting words. She was amazing, I'm so happy she touched your heart the way she did many others ♡

Chelsea Brettin - January 25, 2023 at 01:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.*



January 14, 2023 at 12:47 AM

LB

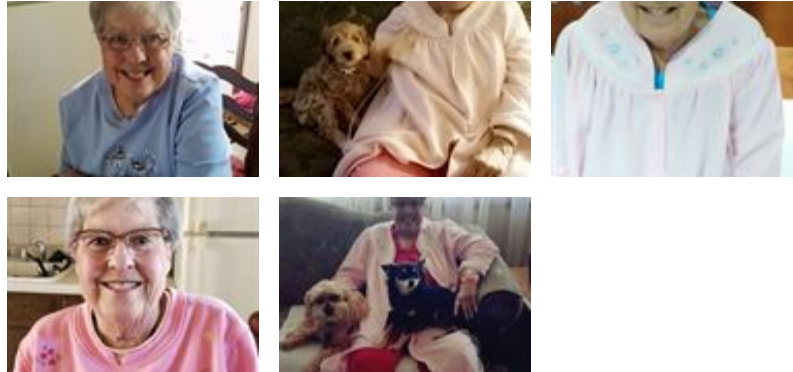
“ Love, your MN family - the Bruce's purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.



Love, your MN family - the Bruce's - January 13, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ 134 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - January 13, 2023 at 02:52 PM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.



January 12, 2023 at 08:02 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.



January 12, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.



January 12, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.



January 12, 2023 at 08:56 AM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Arnold.



January 11, 2023 at 11:39 PM

SM

“ I have so many precious memories of Carol. We started at Convalescent Care Center about the same time. I was a brand new LPN and Carol took me under her wings and taught me what a real nurse should do. It wasn't just nursing skills but how to genuinely care for people. The residents loved her. Carol would walk in the building and we had men there that were kind of unkept but she motivated them and they would come up to her showing her they shaved because she would Pat them on the cheeks and tell them how nice they looked. She complimented the ladies on their hair and nails and they would soak their names to get the nicotine stains off to show Carol how nice their hands looked. The way she transformed the residents and the staff by instilling pride into everyone made such a difference and changed the culture of the facility. We went from being the worst of the worst to having deficiency free surveys. Carol was always smiling and wanted the best for others. She encouraged me to go on and further my education and I know how proud she was of each of her kids and grandkids. Although we didn't see each other daily like we used to we could just pick up where we left off. I left Convalescent Care and a few short months later Carol called and wanted to know if I would have a place for her. To me that was one of the highest compliments she could give me. I will forever be grateful for the wonderful things Carol taught me but more so for her friendship.

Suzanne McKibben - January 11, 2023 at 11:07 PM

AL

Oh Suzanne, thank you so very much for these wonderful words about Mom. She was old school nursing , where it wasn't just passing meds but actual caring about her patients..thank you for being a wonderful coworker and friend. ❤️

Angela Lovell - January 12, 2023 at 01:11 AM