



Mary Lou Wetzel

January 9, 1946 - July 29, 2020

Mary Lou Wetzel, age 74, of Elizabethton, Tennessee went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 from the Johnson City Medical Center. Mary Lou was born in Elizabethton to the late George N. Wetzel and Ella Grace Clemons Wetzel. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Tom and Fred Wetzel; and a niece, Lori Peters.

Mary Lou had a love of children and family and worked for thirty-seven years teaching kindergarten. She taught at Valley Forge Elementary for 1 year and Cloudland Elementary 36 years before retiring. She was a member of Grace Baptist Church and loved her church family and friends. Mary Lou was a member of DAR, Retired Teachers Association of Elizabethton/ Carter County Schools and loved to read and being involved in her family gatherings. She enjoyed watching all the children grow and play and was always sending cards to those who needed to be uplifted. She cared deeply about her community.

Those left to cherish her many wonderful memories include her sister, Anna Sue Peters; a sister-in-law, Lois Wetzel; her nieces, Kim Pless, Kerrie Sluder, Leslye Culbert, Julie Malone and Jada Wetzel; her nephews, Tommy Wetzel and Fredric Wetzel; great nieces, Katie Robinson, Brilee Culbert, Carolina Malone, Kalea Wetzel, Ryla Wetzel and Violet Wetzel; great nephews, Will Robinson, Bo Pless, Ethan Sluder, Reece Bradford, David Bradford, Hayden Culbert, Evan Sluder, Sam Bradford, Caleb Malone, Frederic Cash Wetzel, and Connor Malone. Several other very special cousins and a multitude of neighbors and friends also survive.

A graveside service to celebrate Mary Lou's life will be conducted at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at Happy Valley Memorial Park with Reverend Travis Tyler, officiating. Music will be provided by Kim Pless and Brilee Culbert. Active pallbearers will be Bo Pless, Reece Bradford, David Bradford, Hayden Culbert, Sam Bradford, Ethan Sluder, Evan Sluder, Eddie Pless, Brent Sluder, Josh Malone and Brian Culbert. Those wishing to attend the graveside service are asked to meet at Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton at 8:15 AM on Wednesday to go in procession to the cemetery.

The family would like to request, in lieu of flowers please give money in memory of Mary Lou to the Grace Baptist Church library. As a teacher she taught countless children to read. Because of her great love of reading and for children, the family requests those who would like to please donate a monetary donation earmarked for school supplies to Carter County Schools' Cloudland Elementary her school where she served and worked until her retirement.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Carter County is mandating that all citizens who live in or visit Carter County wear masks in public. In keeping in accordance with this mandate, all visitors to the visitation / funeral service are required to wear a mask/ and or facial covering. Also, social distancing recommendations will be observed.

Online condolences may be shared with the family on our website, www.tetrickfuneralhome.com.

Mary Lou and her family are in the care of Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton. Office 423-542-2232, service information line, 423-543-4917.

Cemetery Details

Happy Valley Memorial Park

2708 Elizabethton Hwy.
Johnson City, TN 37601

Previous Events

Graveside Service and Interment

AUG 5. 9:00 AM (ET)

Happy Valley Memorial Park
2708 Elizabethton Hwy.
Johnson City, TN 37601

Tribute Wall



“ *Tetrick Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel*



Tetrick Funeral - August 04, 2020 at 03:46 PM

HG

Sometimes we wonder if the world recognizes how special our loved ones are... please know... the world knew how special Ms Wetzel was! I was always so touched by the fact that no matter what the “system” required to be taught in kindergarten, Ms Wetzel knew what was important for kids to experience...fun, laughter, magic, holidays, and learning. Our family loves her so much! Love Chris, Holly, Abbey, Maggie and Walker Gouge

Holly Gouge - August 04, 2020 at 09:17 PM

TB

Beautiful tribute to a very special & much loved Mimi. We hold you in our heart's with love & prayer. Ted & Anne

Ted & Anne Bradford - August 05, 2020 at 07:33 AM

CH

Our sweet and special babysitter that our family has always loved! She loved our children and they loved her right back! We have so many memories of her that we will always hold dear in our hearts! She was a special lady!!!

Claudette Howerton - August 11, 2020 at 11:08 PM

PS

Mary Lou and I went through Valley Forge Elementary together. My first memories of her was in first grade with Ms. Chambers. She was so pretty and sweet. She and Richard Gray were sweethearts and even had an official wedding performed by Ms Chambers. She never changed- pretty, sweet, fun, kind, and intelligent. Beautiful memories. She is sorely missed. Heaven's gain.

patsy Dykes Shaffer - August 19, 2020 at 01:27 AM

DM

“ *A precious lady.... Debbie Morrison*

Debbie Morrison - August 11, 2020 at 07:22 AM

DW

“ Mary Lou was my first cousin and when I look back on fond memories she will always be there. She was my bridesmaid in 1966, when I married John Stokes. We wrote letters and shared what was going on in each others lives by phone and at family get togethers for over 70 years.

When I joined Eastside Baptist Church and was baptized in 1998, Mary Lou and Sue were there for me, along with my Mother, her Aunt Kathryn. She was very thoughtful and brought us snacks and a picnic lunch, when we headed home for IN or had hospital stays in Johnson City and Elizabethton. I will miss all the lovely birthday cards and get well cards she always remembered to mail. God bless you Mary Lou! Our family has lost another angel, we will never forget. Dolores Ferling Stokes Barker Wheelchel.

Dolores Wheelchel - August 10, 2020 at 01:14 PM

JC

“ June Hoss Campbell lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



June Hoss Campbell - August 06, 2020 at 10:32 PM

LB

“ Linda Nell Bowers lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Linda Nell Bowers - August 05, 2020 at 09:03 AM

CS

“ Carol Cole Scruggs lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Carol Cole Scruggs - August 05, 2020 at 08:49 AM

GA

“ *Glenda Arwood lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel*



Glenda Arwood - August 05, 2020 at 06:08 AM

MH

“ *I can only say I am heartbroken. Maryou Wetzel was my friend, sister in christ and mentor. You will be greatly missed. Thank You for all the wonderful memories Respectfully, Melanie Highsmith*



melanie highsmith - August 04, 2020 at 11:36 PM

MT

“ *Marylou was an amazing teacher and friend. She had all three of my kids in kindergarten. They loved her and enjoyed her class. I also worked with her at Cloudland. Marylou always had a smile and a kind word for all. My prayers are with family.*

Marie Turbyfill - August 04, 2020 at 09:21 PM

JH

“ *Thoughts and prayers for this family. Mary was a sweet, kind, gracious lady. We are sorry for your loss. Blessings to each one. Jim and Adie Hyder*

Jim Hyder - August 04, 2020 at 02:37 PM

BS

“ *My sister Sandra and I will never forget those wonderful summer days many, many years ago playing in the fields beside your parent's home. So much fun and excitement running from that bull! We loved our time spent with your family when we were children .Each of you will always hold a special place in our hearts. What a glorious reunion for Mary Lou to join George, Grace, Tommy and Freddie... Find peace knowing they are all together.*

Bendy Moss Shoulders - August 04, 2020 at 01:31 PM

TJ

“ Treasa M Jones lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Treasa M Jones - August 04, 2020 at 11:08 AM

LG

“ Prayers and sympathy for family. I knew her as kindergarten teacher from Cloudland..



Lucinda Green - August 04, 2020 at 09:52 AM

SG

“ Suzanne Gentry lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Suzanne Gentry - August 04, 2020 at 07:26 AM

KC

“ Ms. Wetzel was a wonderful woman, Cloudland and the Roan Mountain community was made better by her presence. Our loss is heaven's gain. We will be much in prayer for her family and church family.

Khristina Hicks Cardwell - August 04, 2020 at 03:59 AM

RF

“ Our family sends prayers with love & hugs to each of you...especially Culbert, Malone & Pless families, in our lives & hearts for years.
The Mckinney's
RL, Juanita, Matthew, Andrew & CJ.

RL McKinney family - August 04, 2020 at 12:04 AM

WH

“ You never forget your first teacher. Was blessed to have Ms. Wetzel as mine. She was the most thoughtful, caring, sweet lady, and she never forgot any of her students. Sending my prayers to her family and loved ones! All of us at Cloudland who had her as a teacher are better for it!



Wes Holtsclaw - August 03, 2020 at 11:50 PM



Mary Lou was an inspiration teaching our future generations. Our condolences to all our family in Tennessee.

Annette Wilcher - August 04, 2020 at 09:31 AM



Sue and family so sorry to learn of Mary Lou's passing. Prayers for your comfort and peace.

Ruth Bowers - August 04, 2020 at 11:20 PM

JE

“ Jen lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Jen - August 03, 2020 at 11:01 PM

SB

“ Sallie Buckner lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Sallie Buckner - August 03, 2020 at 10:12 PM



“ *Mary Lou was such a special, sweet person. I cherish the memories of working with her at the Library and the times we've spent talking since then. We are all diminished by her passing. With prayers for you, for God's peace during this trying time.*

Teresa Murray Smith



Teresa Smith - August 03, 2020 at 10:09 PM

VL

“ *Mary Lou was a very special person. She always had project suggestions for our Women on Mission group at church. I will truly miss her.*

See you on the other side Mary Lou 🥰



Vickie Leonard - August 03, 2020 at 08:14 PM

RG

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Richard Gray - August 03, 2020 at 07:08 PM

RG

“ *Anna Sue: I was deeply saddened when news of Mary Lou's death came last week. Her passing took a part of me with it. Our families were so intertwined that it seems I knew her all my (our) life, and certainly from my first memories. I remember our 1st grade together at Valley Forge and her pretty curly hair, which she still had in our 7th grade class picture. I remember she was my 1st grade "Girlfriend" and my buddy throughout Elementary School. Her nieces and nephews might not believe it but Mary Lou was a favorite of all the boys in the class at Valley Forge. In 2015 our VF Class had a 55th reunion and it was great fun seeing Mary Lou there and visiting that 1st grade classroom and remembering those years together with our other classmates. There is much more to remember but let it not be forgotten; as long as any member of Miss Chamber's 1st grade class of 1952 lives, Mary Lou will live in their mind and hearts.*

Richard Gray - August 03, 2020 at 07:05 PM

LH

“ My Kindergarten teacher 1986 . I have great memories of her . I would see her out in town and she still remembered me .

Lee Ann Strickland Heaton - August 03, 2020 at 06:50 PM

LK

“ Our daughters were blessed by your grace and love as their teacher.

Larry & Koren †



Larry & Koren - August 03, 2020 at 06:30 PM

JT

“ Joe, Priscilla, Joseph Trivette sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Joe, Priscilla, Joseph Trivette - August 03, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ I first met Mary Lou at the library and we became friends almost immediately. We liked to read the same kinds of things and she always had recommendations for me. We also shared the same slightly offbeat sense of humor and giggled together over the silliest thing. She always paid special attention to my daughter, another way to endear yourself to me. I am so sorry for her loss as it's way too soon.

Remega Hyder - August 03, 2020 at 05:37 PM

RR

“ Ms. Wetzel was a very special lady to our family. She taught me, my husband, and both of our children in kindergarten at Cloudland. She still remembered us after all these years and never failed to speak to us when we saw her out. She will be missed. Many thoughts and prayers go out to her family and all who had the pleasure of knowing her. - Renee, Tommy, T.J., and Melena Roberson.



Renee Roberson - August 03, 2020 at 05:08 PM

SH

“ Shawn Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Shawn Hughes - August 03, 2020 at 04:58 PM

YT

“ Maru Lou was a wonderful person and friend! We love her with all our hearts and to the family and Anna Sue please know we all love you a lot!!

Love Richard , Kathy , Kurt , Emily, Anna , James , Brook and Trenton Taylor

Yvonne Kathy Taylor - August 03, 2020 at 04:37 PM

JH

“ Jessica Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Wetzel



Jessica Hicks - August 03, 2020 at 03:46 PM