



Merlene Faye Kuykendall

January 24, 1937 - November 24, 2015

NAME: Merlene Kuykendall AGE: 78

RESIDENT OF: Visalia DATE OF DEATH: November 24, 2015

OCCUPATION: Teacher PLACE OF DEATH:

Surrounded by family and friends, Merlene Kuykendall went peacefully to meet her Lord on November 24, 2015.

Merlene was born on January 24th, 1937 in Miami, Oklahoma to Olan and Beulah DaVee.

She is preceded in death by Sister Francie Broderick and daughter Michele Kuykendall. Merlene is survived by husband Bill Kuykendall of 58 years, siblings Jerry DaVee, Neva Barker, and Treva Bullard, children Renee and Ed Taylor, Collette and Lino Barragan, Cory Kuykendall and Donovan Lucas, grandchildren Kile and Missi Taylor, Sean and Jill Taylor, Aaron Hamilton, Tristan and Nathan Barragan, and Kade Vera. She had 3 great-grandchildren, Liam, Kaia, and Charlie Michele.

Merlene and Bill were married on September 20th, 1957 in Visalia. They were married for 58 years. Together, they raised 4 children. Merlene worked in banking before going back to school with friends Freda McCarty and Mona Searcy at Fresno State in 1975. While at Fresno State, she earned a teaching

credential and a Master's degree, in speech. She graduated Cum Laude. She began her career in teaching in 1976 at Sundale Elementary in Tulare where she taught every grade from Kindergarten through eighth grade. During her time at Sundale, it was not uncommon for families to request her to be their student's teacher. Merlene retired in 2001 after 26 years in education. The wife of a coach, it was a common sight to see her attending most home basketball games sitting right behind the home bench. Merlene was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ. She was also a Brownie and Girl Scout leader and Den Mother.

Known to her grandchildren as "Merene," she will be remembered as being kind, generous, and unconditionally supportive. A natural hostess, Merene never said "no" to opening her home where she frequently hosted birthday parties, holiday celebrations, church get together, graduation parties, and other special occasion.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at the Visalia Community Church of Christ on December 21st at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michelle Kuykendall track scholarship at Mt. Whitney or the Sundale Library.

SURVIVED BY:

PRECEDED IN DEATH BY:

VISITATION:

SERVICES:

BURIAL:

A memorial tribute may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com

Cemetery Details

Visalia Public Cemetery

1300 W. Goshen Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291
visaliacemetery@aol.com
<http://www.visaliacem.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial

DEC **21**. 12:30 PM (PT)

Visalia Community Church
3838 S. Court
Visalia, CA 93277

Graveside

DEC **21**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Visalia Public Cemetery
1300 W. Goshen Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291
visaliacemetery@aol.com
<http://www.visaliacem.org/>

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Merlene was one of the most hospitable persons I have ever met. Her home was open to all and she entertained with such grace, organization and I always had a great time when at her events.*

Marty Scott - December 21, 2015 at 12:51 AM

JD

“ *I still feel it's only proper to address you as "Mr. Kuykendall." That just shows the amount of respect so many of us, your former students, have for you. I am so very sorry to hear of your beautiful (inside and out) wife's passing. I know it is a great loss to you and the whole family. She was always so "bubbly" and kind. I am sure my sister Carol and your daughter Michele have formed a huge greeting party to receive her into Heaven. My wish is that all of us can be reunited again someday in that beautiful place. I will never forget your attendance at Carol's funeral services. For you to do that was such a measure of respect and love that we all have for Carol. I am so glad you sought me out that day. It meant so very much to me that you came to pay your respects to her. I miss her and my dear parents every day -- and i know you must be experiencing the same emotions. I cannot recall but, if you attended the services in Tulare for my parents, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing that as well. I pray that God grants you the peace and comfort you need to carry on until you meet again.*

Just returning home this week from surgery at St. Agnes in Fresno, I -- very unfortunately -- will not be able to attend the services for your dear wife. I regret not being able to "return the favor" you bestowed on my family, but please know that she -- and YOU and the family -- will be in my thoughts and prayers on December 21 and beyond.

Judy Watry Dlugonski - December 19, 2015 at 12:54 PM

CB

thank you for your kind words. I really appreciate the time you took to post this.

~Collette Kuykendall Barragan

Collette Barragan - February 08, 2016 at 02:09 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Merlene Faye Kuykendall.*



December 19, 2015 at 12:43 PM