

Blanche Ferguson Coker

March 11, 1927 - September 27, 2021

Blanche Ferguson Coker departed this life to meet her Savior on September 27, 2021. Born at home on the family farm west of Booneville, AR, on March 11, 1927, she was preceded in death by her parents, William Alonzo Ferguson and Clara Elizabeth Dickey, two brothers, Edward (Shirley) and John (Reece), one sister, Katherine (Jack) Bentley, one brother-in-law, M. R. South, and one son-in-law, the Reverend Gaylan Cope.

She is survived by a son, William Coker (Karin), a daughter, Suzanne Cope, five grandchildren, David (Wendy) and Christopher (Tara) Sims, and Daniel, Paul, and Amanda Coker, five great-grandchildren, Tucker and Brylie Sims, and John David, Kathryn, and James Coker, one sister-in-law, Betty South, four nieces, two nephews, and many friends.

Blanche was educated by her parents (both teachers) and the Booneville Public Schools. She went to summer school to graduate a year early in 1944 and was named salutatorian of her class. She had dreams of being a nurse, but was refused admission due to a crippled leg, caused by a childhood bout with polio.

In 1945, Blanche renewed her acquaintance with a former classmate, Foy Coker, who was preparing to ship out to Japan. They wrote to each other for the year he was gone, and when he returned, they made plans for a wedding

the next spring. The vows they made on March 16, 1947, were to last over 62 years, until Foy's passing in 2009.

By Christmas, Blanche and Foy were celebrating a surprise--the birth of their first child, William Foy. The next five years found the young family traveling across the country with the U. S. Army from Olympia, WA, to Tombstone, AZ, then back to AR, where they finally settled in Fort Smith. Soon after, they were blessed with a baby girl, Suzanne. For the next six years, Blanche showed her skills as a housewife and mother. In 1959, Foy was offered the office manager's position with George's Feed and Supply in Springdale. In June, they made the move.

For the next six decades, Blanche became immersed in her new city. She held leadership positions in PTA, Girl Scouts, United Methodist Church, PEO, Beta Sigma Phi, and Book Lovers Book Club. She made many new friends, including the Breakfast Beauties, the Bridge Club, Dinner Party Group, and Small Group Bible Studies.

In 1970, she and Lena Collins opened C & C Gifts in San Jose Manor, which was later expanded to include a second store in Siloam Springs. The store had a 30-year run on Emma Avenue as the place to shop for "Gifts of Distinction." She finally closed the shop to take care of Foy as he experienced declining health. She took excellent care of him for the next eleven years.

Throughout the years she continued to make family a high priority, hosting holiday parties and giving support to anyone who was hurting or giving birth or needing some help with the grandkids. She was a consummate cook, a marvelous gardener (both flowers and vegetables), a faithful friend, and a great listener. She and Foy were avid sports fans and for many years held season tickets for football and basketball for the Razorbacks and the Bulldogs.

Even in the last years of her life when memory issues became a problem she continued to make new friends among the residents and staff at Providence Assisted Living. Her kindness, cheerfulness, and winsome manner will remain in our hearts.

Visitation will be at Sisco Funeral Chapel, 705 West Meadow Avenue, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., Friday, October 1. A service celebrating Blanche's life will be Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 206 West Johnson Avenue, Springdale, AR. A graveside service will be held at Ferguson Valley Cemetery west of Booneville, AR, at 3:00 p.m.

Pallbearers are David Sims, Paul Coker, Christopher Sims, Fred Bentley, John Ferguson, Ronnie Elmore. Honorary Pallbearers are Daniel Coker, Bernie Nelson, Jerry Dickens, Ferrell Dickens, and Builders Sunday School Class.

Memorial gifts can be made to First United Methodist Church, Springdale.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 West Meadow
Springdale, AR 72764
(479) 751-4577
siscofuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.siscofuneral.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
206 W. Johnson Ave.
Springdale, AR 72764
info@firstchurchspringdale.org
<http://www.firstchurchspringdale.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Blanche Ferguson Coker*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Bill, Suzanne, and family,
We have such fond memories of your mom and whole family. You all welcomed our Yankee family to Shipley street and to First United Methodist and we quickly became friends. Blanche had such a sweet spirit and we know it is hard for you each to let her go. Take comfort in all your special memories. With love, Joy Reid, Joene and Russ Ray, and Ken and Eileen Reid*

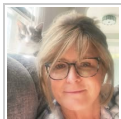
Joene Ray - October 03, 2021 at 11:06 PM



“ *Shawn Kincaid lit a candle in memory of Blanche Ferguson Coker*



Shawn Kincaid - October 01, 2021 at 09:47 AM



For Paul Coker and his children, John David, Katie and James. Sending your our prayers as you say goodbye to your beautiful Grandmother Blanche.

Shawn Kincaid - October 01, 2021 at 09:49 AM

MT

“ *The Cokers were the first couple I recall when I became a member of UMC in Springdale at the age of 14. They had a lasting positive impact on my journey thru this life. My condolences to the family for their loss, My joy in her reunion. Sincerely, Michael Dwayne Tevebaugh*

Michael Tevebaugh - September 30, 2021 at 08:42 AM

MJ

“ *Sincere sympathy to the family on the passing of Blanche. She was a wonderful lady. I really enjoyed working for her and Lena at the gift shop. Our husbands worked together at George's.*

Marlene Jackson - September 29, 2021 at 09:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Blanche Ferguson Coker.*



September 28, 2021 at 10:42 PM