



Wanda L. Bright

April 22, 1933 - May 2, 2018

Wanda Bright, 85, passed away on Saturday evening, April 28th at the Centralia Manor Nursing Home after a long battle with cancer.

Wanda was born on April 22, 1933 in Valier, Illinois the daughter of Otis and Mabel (nee Dillard) Burnam. She was preceded in death by both parents, one sister Monte, one brother Gene of Indianapolis, Indiana. Surviving family members include: two sons, Paul (Lenora) Bright of Peoria, IL; Doug Bright of Bloomington, IN; one “adopted” daughter, Anna Donoho of Centralia; three grandchildren, Nicholas (Lindsey) Bright of Peoria, IL, Jessica Bright of Orlando, FL, and Emily Bright of Charlotte, NC; and two great grandchildren, Charlotte and Henry Bright of Peoria.

Wanda, a true coal miner’s daughter, grew up in Valier, IL. She often spoke of a childhood growing up with first-generation immigrant children from many nations whose parents were all drawn to the mining jobs. She was the valedictorian of her high school graduating class of nine and her sons never tired of kidding her about it. She had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to laugh. She adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren spending many hours arranging and displaying their photos. In 1966 she became school secretary, nurse, bookkeeper and administrative assistant at Willow Grove Grade School where she served countless children until her retirement in 1996. After retiring, Wanda learned to ride horses, taught her grandchildren to fish, inadvertently taught them to swear, and earned certification as a Master Gardener. She enjoyed writing articles on gardening and the outdoors for the

local newspaper. She attended the Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia and was a strong person of faith and prayer.

Funeral Services for Wanda L. Bright will be held Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia with Pastor Steve Pettit officiating. Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the Relay for Life and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, IL 62801, which is honored to be of service to the Bright Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Wanda L. Bright*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - October 26, 2018 at 10:39 AM



“ *We just learned of your Mother's passing and want to express our deepest condolences. I so wish that I could have attended the service and am sorry I wasn't present. Please know that you are in our prayers and thoughts. Wanda was always so gracious and just as crazy as we kids were when we spent many a night at your house in high school. How she put up with us is beyond me! Looking at the video montage shows she loved her boys and grandchildren. May she rest in eternal peace but keep busy as your guardian angel. Mark & Julie Walker, Carlyle, IL*

May 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sending my sympathy to you in the loss of your loved one, such a wonderful person. I became acquainted with Wanda through my daughters attending Willow Grove School. She touched many young lives. It was also a blessing to share the same neighborhood with her. I am so sorry that I am unable to come and pay my respects to this Dear One, but I am unable due to my work schedule. Know that you and yours are in my thoughts and prayers.

Vicki (Schoen) Edwards - May 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM