



## Mrs. Bernita "Bea" Wright

December 12, 1928 - February 21, 2016

Bernita Kallenbach Wright, 87, of St. Louis, Missouri passed away peacefully on February 21, 2016 at the McKnight Place Extended Care facility in St. Louis, Missouri after courageously living out the remainder of her life with the limitations suffered following a stroke in July 2013. A private family memorial will take place in celebration of her life on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Bernita (affectionately known as Bea) was born in St. Louis, Missouri on Dec. 12, 1928 to Dr. Travis and Ethel Kallenbach (nee Cook). She graduated from Clayton High School, and went on to complete two years of college at Williams Woods in Fulton, Missouri.

Bea is survived by her beloved husband, William Webb Wright. Bea and Bill were united in marriage on October 15, 1948, and recently celebrated their 67th anniversary. Bea was also the loving mother of four children: The late Kathryn Ann Wright, Carolyn Wright of St. Louis, Nancy (Dave) Whiteman of Prairie Village, Kansas and Robert Wright of St. Louis. Bea is additionally survived by three grandchildren; Laura Whiteman Copeland (Dr. Greg) of Fresno, California, Natalie Whiteman Morrison (Scott) of Kansas City, Missouri, and Peter Whiteman (Elo) of Overland Park, Kansas, who blessed her with 9 great grandchildren as follows: Sam Copeland, Ben Copeland, Gabi Copeland, and Josh Copeland of Fresno, California; Fletcher Morrison, Dexter, Morrison, and Crosby Morrison of Kansas City, Missouri, and Elahn Whiteman and Noree Whiteman of Overland Park, Kansas. Additionally, she is

survived by loving nieces, nephew, in-laws, and friends.

Bea has two surviving sisters; Lois (the late Stan) Lucas, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Erline (Dr. Dave) Ferguson of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bea enjoyed living life to the fullest as a wife, mother and homemaker.

Through these roles, she exhibited many of her gifts and talents such as cooking, sewing, needlework, and gardening which always made “home” a special place to be. In addition to enjoying time with family, she shared life with numerous friends in activities such as tennis, playing bridge, garden club, church circles, and participating in a philanthropic organization called PEO.

Bea always had a strong interest in, and love for, travel. She earned a pilot’s license as a teenager, being influenced by her father who was also a pilot.

This interest then resulted in a part time career as a travel agent during her “empty nest” years. As a travel agent, she was able to experience many trips to places around the world, in addition to those taken with Bill and dear friends. Bea’s contagious smile and zeal for life will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

The family would like to thank the dedicated staff of McKnight Place Extended Care for their care and kindnesses during the two years Bea was a resident.

The family would also like to thank the compassionate staff of BJC Hospice for making Bea’s last two weeks as comfortable as possible and for their kindness to the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## **Valhalla Outdoor Garden Mausoleum**

7600 St Charles Rock Road  
St Louis, MO 63133

# Tribute Wall

CJ

“ *The game of tennis brought the Wright's and Jenkins' families together. Mrs. Wright was the classiest woman I'd ever seen and always with a megawatt smile on her face. I remember the 'gals' in their tennis 'togs' zipping off to the courts for a little exercise, some great laughs and friendly competition. Bea was one of the best!*

*Our hearts go out to her family and friends.*

*Carolyn, Bill and Steve Jenkins*

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**Carolyn Jenkins** - March 03, 2016 at 10:56 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bernita "Bea" Wright.*



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March 02, 2016 at 10:03 PM

AN

“ *I loved you like my own mother. May you rest forever with all the saints in Heaven.*

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**Anonymous** - February 29, 2016 at 10:46 AM

BH

“ *Bea was one of the wonderful women I have ever known! There wasn't a time when she didn't have a beautiful smile on her face! She always "listened" when people spoke and was truly genuine and caring! Her laugh was contagious and I will never forget spunk and enthusiasm! Our families have been so close for so many years..*

*I know she is dancing in heaven with mom and dad.*

*The Wrights will always have a special place in my heart. God bless Bea and all of the Wrights. May she rest in peace.*

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**Barbara Heckman** - February 27, 2016 at 05:56 PM

MK

*"Mrs. Wright" she will always be to me. She was the mother of a close childhood friend and neighbor. As a child fifty years ago or so, I would knock on their back door, and Mrs. Wright would always greet me with a big smile, care and warmth that lit up my day. Utterly delightful person, and a big part of wonderful childhood memories.*

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**Mark Klamer** - February 28, 2016 at 12:57 PM

BR

*We will always remember Bea, especially the Christmas box of cookies. Here is the recipe, saved by my mother and passed down to me.*

*Bea Wright's Anise Cookies: makes 5 dozen*

*2 eggs, 1 C sugar, 1 C flour, 4 drops anise oil*

*Beat well and long in mixer. Drop from teaspoon on waxed paper. Set for 12 hours. Bake at 350 deg for 8-10 minutes. Peel off waxed paper.*

*Bea we love you,*

*Ben Richard*

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**Ben Richard** - February 28, 2016 at 04:23 PM

PG

*I remember her fabulous Christmas cookies too! Peanut butter with a Hershey's kiss! She always welcomed the "gang"....Bea's basement was perfect for entertaining! So many fun times there! Nancy was always adorned with the most beautiful handmade sweaters and clothes! Bea was a very talented woman and wonderful mother!*

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**Patty Gregg** - February 28, 2016 at 06:37 PM

ER

*Bill,*

*So sorry to hear this news. Not many of us left. Each passing brings back the good memories.*

*Being with Bea was always a happy occasion.*

*Ed Richard*

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**Ed Richard** - February 28, 2016 at 11:25 PM

LM

*I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother! She was in my Mom's wedding and they remained life long friends! (Nancy and Logan Young). So enjoyed being with her and the "girls!" what a lively, spirited group! When we took them to a winery for my Moms birthday, it was so much fun! I know you have some great memories to sustain you in your time of sorrow! God bless!*

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**Linda Young Mueller** - February 29, 2016 at 05:50 PM

BG

*Bea and her wonderful family were the best neighbors I have ever had! A truly beautiful person inside and out, with that mega-watt smile! I will never forget her. I am so sorry for your loss Carolyn and Bill, and the rest of your family (who I didn't know as well).*

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**Bonnie Geissal-Wendt** - March 23, 2016 at 03:44 PM