



Anita Jo Grace

September 18, 1961 - May 15, 2014

Anita Jo Grace, 52, of Olive Branch, Illinois passed away at 6:00PM on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, MO.

She was born September 18, 1961 to Leland and Mary Jo (Collins) McKee. She and Walter Grace were married on February 14, 1981. She was a member of the Alexander Free Will Baptist Church

Anita was a devoted daughter, mother and wife. She was an outstanding member of the business and education communities. At the time of her death she was the Branch President of the First National Bank in Cairo. She was employed by that bank for the past 27 years. She served on the boards of directors for numerous community organizations: Olive Branch Area Community Development Corporation, Olive Branch Cemetery Association, and Dodge Memorial Library. She was a member of the Cairo Rotary Club.

Survivors include her husband, Walt; her mother, Mary Jo (Collins) McKee of Thebes; a daughter, Lesley, of the home; a son, Justin (Jessica) and a granddaughter, Natalie, of Olive Branch; a sister, Rhonda Sue Stokes (Terry Hunt) of Tarpon Springs, Fla.; two brothers, Jerry Leland (Georgia) McKee of Thebes and Michael Lee McKee of Schenectady, NY; a sister-in-law, Dr. Linda Grace of Queensberry, NY; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends may call from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at Crain Funeral Home in Tamms. Graveside services will follow at 12:30 PM at Olive Branch Cemetery with Rev. Earnest Brown officiating. A dinner to follow the graveside service will be at Alexander Freewill Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Olive Branch Cemetery Association.

Tribute Wall



“ *Anita Jo Grace*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Our love & prayers to Walt Grace & Family. Anita was so nice and helped you in any way she could . Always with a smile & a kind word for you. We would visit her when we visited Cairo. She also work with my dad who use to work at the bank. She was a very nice lady. Plus her mom & my aunt shared a room at Day Star. She was there faithfully every evening after work. We will always remember "ANITA" , a great lady !!*

Juanita White - May 28, 2014 at 09:45 PM



“ *Billy And Janet Moses lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Billy and Janet Moses - May 22, 2014 at 09:49 PM



“ *Lisa Grace sent a virtual gift in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



lisa grace - May 21, 2014 at 09:07 PM

CH

“ *Chance Hornberger lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Chance Hornberger - May 21, 2014 at 08:27 PM

DH

“ *Debbie Horlyk lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Debbie Horlyk - May 21, 2014 at 01:50 PM

DH

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Anita and her family. God bless you.*
Debbie Horlyk
First Savings Bank, Beresford, SD

Debbie Horlyk - May 21, 2014 at 01:49 PM

SD

“ *Sam & Sharyl Davis lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Sam & Sharyl Davis - May 21, 2014 at 09:53 AM

JM

“ *Janelle McCrite lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Janelle McCrite - May 20, 2014 at 07:43 PM

RW

“ *Rhonda Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Rhonda Williams - May 20, 2014 at 07:07 PM

RW

“ *Rhonda Williams lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Rhonda Williams - May 20, 2014 at 07:06 PM

BM

“ *Walt and family. i can't begin to imagine the great loss you feel. Anita was a wonderful woman. She was kind and loving from childhood until her final day. My prayers have been consumed with thoughts of comfort and healing for you and your family God Bless You All. Heaven's Sounding Sweeter all the Time.*

Beverly Smothers Miller - May 20, 2014 at 04:09 PM

BS

“ Dear Walt and family,

I am so sorry for your loss and cannot express in words enough to remove or dull the pain that I am sure you are feeling at this time. Anita was one of the most kind and sincere persons that I have ever known and will be greatly missed. Prayers from my family to yours at this time.

Brian Stevens

Brian Stevens - May 20, 2014 at 01:28 PM

D.

“ So Sorry For Your Loss! My thoughts and prayers are with your family!

D.Rodgers - May 20, 2014 at 01:16 PM

CW

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Steve & Chari Willis, Goose Creek, SC

Chari Willis - May 20, 2014 at 10:51 AM

KS

“ I am a nurse at St Francis and met Anita thru caring for a family member. She was so sweet and loved her family very much. She was a wonderful living advocate for her dear mother. My prayers are with her family and friends and I am grateful that her life intersected with mine , even if just for a moment. I am blessed to have known her.

kathy S - May 20, 2014 at 10:46 AM

CB

“ Cheryl Browning-Heady lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Cheryl Browning-Heady - May 20, 2014 at 09:19 AM


Jessica
Oliver

“ Anita,

I know that you are in a better place but there are so many people that will miss you every day. All that we can look forward to is to see you again someday. We miss you and love you bunches.

Love,

Jessica Oliver and family.

Jessica Oliver - May 20, 2014 at 09:13 AM

JC

“ We are so sorry for your loss. You're in our thoughts and prayers.

Joanna and Chris Charlton - May 20, 2014 at 09:05 AM

DM

“ Debbie McKee lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Debbie McKee - May 20, 2014 at 08:52 AM

JO

My prayers are with your family. Anita was a sweet lady. I worked with her at the bank years ago as a teller. What a great lady. Joyce

Joyce - May 20, 2014 at 11:43 AM



“ Although I did not know Anita personally, I know that she was very kind and helpful to my mother and my mom was fond of her. From what I have read and heard since this tragedy, it's obvious that Anita touched so many lives in such an uplifting way. I am so sorry for the loss of this lovely woman to her family and community. I offer prayers for her family at this time of unspeakable sadness.

Claire Watson - May 20, 2014 at 08:52 AM

MR

“ Mike & Kim Vick Ramirez lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Mike & Kim Vick Ramirez - May 20, 2014 at 08:45 AM

TF

“ Anita was such a sweet and caring person who touched the lives of so many. That kindness and the enthusiasm in which she lived her life will serve as a legacy to her family and her community. We may never forget how she was taken from her family, but let's also never forget the way she lived her life. Prayers and comfort to all her family.

The Dover Family - May 20, 2014 at 08:41 AM

WV

“ You were to be my new walking buddy...but there is a bright and beautiful angel walking in heaven.



Wendy Vaughn - May 20, 2014 at 08:05 AM

TS

“ Anita was such a kind sweet person. I loved sitting by her in Sunday school & listening to her advice. She will truly be missed. Our prayers & thoughts are with the family. Love, Tiffany Schultz

Tiffany Schultz - May 20, 2014 at 07:49 AM

 Taunya Butcher

“ It was a priviledge to have known you Anita. You will be greatly missed by all. Your family will remain in my prayers. Love you!

Taunya Butcher - May 20, 2014 at 07:41 AM

JH

“ Remember so well, riding the bus home with you. Such a small, beautiful girl with a sweet sweet spirit. . . You leave behind the legacy of love and beauty, where you rest now in God's arms. . . My heartfelt sympathy to all family and friends.

Jeanne Masterson Hoffman - May 20, 2014 at 07:37 AM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Grace Family during this difficult time. I will miss Anita at the Tour de Shawnee, but will surely keep her with me in spirit. She was such an inspiration and I'll miss her dearly.

Sharon Hileman - May 20, 2014 at 07:35 AM

SM

“ Dear sweet Anita,
I have wonderful memories of you and will always remember you
with long, long hair. Autumn was pretty jealous of you because you
were Walt's girlfriend. Rest in peace sweet lady.

Sheryl Masterson - May 20, 2014 at 06:56 AM

SM

“ Sheryl Masterson lit a candle in memory of
Anita Jo Grace

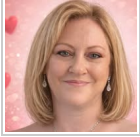


Sheryl Masterson - May 20, 2014 at 06:46 AM

KM

“ Anita,
I only met you a few times, but you were always the sweetest
person who jumped up from your window and said "Well Karen, how
is Allie? We feel like we live with you!"
You girls were a family! Nita loved you and thought so much of you.
I am so sorry this happened. I will do everything in my power to help
keep this monster behind bars forever. So that means you two enjoy
heaven and be our guardian angels! My new connection to your
family will be a blessing. Your husband and son are wonderful,
strong men.

Karen Marquart - May 20, 2014 at 06:24 AM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the Grace Family. Anita was the most wonderful woman, the best mother, and devoted wife. She was an absolute angel and a blessing to us here on earth. My heart and my prayers are with you during this trying time.*
My deepest sympathies,
Robin Lutker

Robin Sams Lutker - May 20, 2014 at 06:17 AM

JW

“ *Jeanetta Honey Wilson lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Jeanetta Honey Wilson - May 19, 2014 at 09:54 PM

LK

“ *Anita, I never got to meet you in this life, but please know I am forever grateful for you. Because of you, my aunt Nita didn't have to go through that alone. It had to give her great comfort to have you ladies with her. You are missed by so many. I wish I could turn back the clock to you ladies having another laugh together at work. May your family find peace in your passing. I wish them all the best.*

Laura Kasten - May 19, 2014 at 09:22 PM



“ *Jerry Thurston lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Jerry Thurston - May 19, 2014 at 09:15 PM



“ *My prayers are with all of you. I know there has to be a " Tour De Heaven" and I am sure Anita and Nita Jo are going to make the ride. Two great ladies who I will miss very much. God bless all of you*



Morrissa Clanahan - May 19, 2014 at 09:00 PM

KC

“ *Walt, our deepest sympathy to you and your family. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless and comfort you. Ken and Mary-Ann Robinson*

Ken Robinson, second cousin - May 19, 2014 at 05:47 PM

MA

“ *Your loved ones are all in my thoughts and prayers. Anita made everyone she met feel better - she put a smile on everyone's face. God bless you! Love, Ms. Millie*

Millie Anderson - May 19, 2014 at 04:43 PM

BH

“ *Your family and friends are in my thought and prayers. I met Anita last year at one of our Universty of Illinois Extension programs for 8th graders called Welcome to the Real World which is a simulation of Living on your Own. Anita was our banker for the day. Later I found out she was one of our council members and spoke to her on the phone several times about council meetings dates and times and such. Her and had always had a great time talking on the phone...like a long lost sister. I am greatly sorry about your loss. We will all miss her greatly. Brenda Hileman*

Brenda Hileman - May 19, 2014 at 04:12 PM

MW

“ Although we did not know each other well because I lived out of state most of my life, my mother, Betty Jo and your Grandpa Leslie Grace were brother and sister. My heart is breaking for you and your family in this unspeakable and senseless tragedy. I pray that God will give you and your family peace and comfort now and in days and years to come.

I remember very well visiting Uncle Paul and Aunt Ethel and how they talked about your visits, your children, etc. They adored you both and cherished the times you had together. They loved you both so very much. I am sure they have welcomed Anita into their loving arms and will care for her until we are all together again in Heaven.

God bless and comfort you and your family.

Maria Stevens

Maria Stevens, second cousin to Walt. - May 19, 2014 at 03:19 PM

JP

“ *Walt and Family: Tim and I cannot begin to comprehend the loss and grief that you are experiencing. Just know that we care and prayers are being said each day for God to surround you with his love and strength.*

*Janice and Tim Parker
Tamms, Illinois*

Janice Parker - May 19, 2014 at 03:11 PM

ST

“ SIUC - Olive Branch Recovery Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Anita Jo Grace.



SIUC - Olive Branch Recovery Team - May 19, 2014 at 02:48 PM

DM

“ I first met Anita about 1980. She was a sweet, innocent & beautiful young lady in love with her high school sweetheart named Walt. I see she later married Walt on my birthday in 1981. I did not have the pleasure of seeing her in the years following, as our lives sent us in different directions. As I said, we met around 1980. I was sales manager, & she was our secretary at Coca Cola in Cairo. Words can't express my feelings right now. I can only say our prayers are with the families. May God bless each of you during this very difficult time.

Dave Manker
Charleston

Dave Manker - May 19, 2014 at 01:19 PM

CW

“ CHERYL WALSTON lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



CHERYL WALSTON - May 19, 2014 at 12:58 PM

CR

“ Prayers to the family..

cindy r. - May 18, 2014 at 11:42 PM

ME

“ Mrs. Richardine Ervin lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Mrs. Richardine Ervin - May 18, 2014 at 11:31 PM

ME

“ I met Anita and Nita through being a customer at the bank. I can say that it was a pleasure doing business there, talking to them, and calling the bank from time to time. I moved away from Cairo in October 2004 and I always called the bank from time to time because after I started doing online banking, I was always forgetting my pass word and I would have to call Anita and she would tell me what it was and my balance. Whenever I visited home (Cairo) on vacation I would always have a need to go to the bank. I enjoyed going there because I would get a chance to conversate with them. They were really sweet and friendly ladies. I am going to really miss them. I am truly sorry about what happened to them. It is such a tragedy. I wish there was someway that what happened could have never occurred and sin ce it happened that it could could be reversed. My heart is heavy and I feel bad about what happened. The families are in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that GOD strengthen and comfort them in their bereavement. The family have my sincere condolence in the loss of Anita. You are loved (more than you know). Love and Hugs from my Heart. "Rest in Peace and Heaven Anita." I am going to miss you.

Mrs. Richardine Ervin - May 18, 2014 at 11:26 PM

VG

“ Vickie Green lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



vickie green - May 18, 2014 at 09:19 PM

VG

im just a customer and evertime I called I would say anita this is Vickie she would say I knew who you was only you have that special voice I know so well and we would just laugh...im gonna miss both of yall ..you guys made that bank a pleasure to come there...know we only have bad feelings when we drive by..love and miss you both

vickie green - May 18, 2014 at 09:24 PM

JP

“ We moved to Cairo in 2001 and met Anita when opening our new account. Although our relationship began with business, it quickly became one of friendship. Anita was a kind, caring and very dear person. Her hard work and great sense of humor made her even more special. She loved her family very much. We know your loss of such a wonderful person from your lives is inconsolable. Our prayers will be with all of you. God Bless!!
Janell and Johnny Puckett

Janell Puckett - May 18, 2014 at 08:18 PM

Alisha Hodges

“ Alisha Hodges lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Alisha Hodges - May 18, 2014 at 12:39 PM

JC

“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Anita. I have all her family and friends in my thoughts and prayers.*

Judi Collins - May 18, 2014 at 11:00 AM

LI

“ *Lisa lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Lisa - May 18, 2014 at 10:47 AM

LI

I'm from a very small town myself, I can only imagine how much this hurts. A small town becomes a family, you unite. God bless Anita, her family, friends, and the entire community who mourns for her and Nita Smith. Such a tragedy. My prayers are with you all.

Lisa - May 18, 2014 at 10:49 AM

PT

“ *Pam Tingley lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace*



Pam Tingley - May 17, 2014 at 09:21 PM

FW

“ It is with great sadness upon my heart after hearing of Anita's passing. She was a jewel. She was my parents banker when we resided in Mound City. She was kind, patient and she was funny. She will sorely be missed. May God's arms wrap you with peace and comfort.

*Fawna Wright
Las Vegas, Nevada*

Fawna Wright - May 17, 2014 at 08:34 PM



DJ

“ The Grace family sure are going to miss Anita ,my prayers are with you



Debbie Johnson - May 17, 2014 at 06:47 PM

BH

“ Bryan Hileman lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Bryan Hileman - May 17, 2014 at 05:21 PM

MH

“ I have not been able to see the McKee family in many years as I moved away from the farm but often think of the whole family and many memories. My prayers and my heartfelt sympathies go out to the whole McKee and Grace family. Wish I could be there but live about 300 miles away and cannot make it off work. My prayers are with you and will always remember how great the McKee family was to my family. Mike Harpole-Normal, Illinois

Mike Harpole - May 17, 2014 at 04:30 PM

JM

“ Anita and I rode the same bus to school I remember her sitting beside her brother mike ! I was in first grade a grade behind Anita! She was always so kind and thoughtful, I Will miss her!!

jesse masterson - May 17, 2014 at 02:29 PM

WP

“ Wendye Pettit sent a virtual gift in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Wendye Pettit - May 17, 2014 at 09:45 AM

WP

“ Wendye Pettit lit a candle in memory of Anita Jo Grace



Wendye Pettit - May 17, 2014 at 09:44 AM



“ *I worked with Anita for two years at the bank ,
She was always so kind and Friendly to me
and everyone. I am sadden by her loss and
she will be greatly missed. My thought and
prayers go with the Family Barb (Monan)
Cherry*



Barb Cherry - May 17, 2014 at 09:01 AM