



Lora Louise Blackwell-Kern

June 7, 1930 - February 7, 2021

On February 7, 2021, Lora Louise Blackwell-Kern peacefully passed away surrounded by her family.

Lora was born June 7, 1930 in Murphysboro, Illinois.

She was predeceased by her parents, Robert and Reeta (Waller) Grammer, sister, Berna Dean Galloway, her husband of 59 years, LaRue H. Blackwell and husband of 5 years, Joseph Kern.

She is survived by three children, Gary E. Blackwell, Karen Blackwell Engell and Gayle Blackwell Stearns, 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Through her years of teaching music and English as a Second Language in area schools, leading choirs and youth programs in churches and mission work in China and Africa, she impacted the lives of many. Throughout her life she was active in Baptist life in the area Association and State; including being a founding member of University Baptist Church in Carbondale, leadership of the SIU Baptist Student Union and First Baptist Church of Anna. She was a founding member and remained active in the Union County Arts Council and derived great pleasure from the natural beauty surrounding her home. Her energy, storytelling and spirit will be missed.

Her body has been donated to science. The family will host a Celebration of Life at a later time.

A private inurnment was held in Pleasant Grove Memorial Park.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lora Louise Blackwell-Kern*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I send my sympathy to each of you. Lora was a beautiful lady. She was full with the love of the Lord and was quick to share that love with others. We have been friends, neighbors, sisters in Christ and members of Anna First Baptist. She was a mentor, encourager and a support to me and to my children. Lora is a dear person who will be missed by many for years to come.*

Carlena M Thompson - February 13, 2021 at 09:20 PM



“ *Lora was a pleasant, talented, remarkable, energetic, compassionate lady! She seemed to find something positive about everything and everyone, and her care for others knew few limits. The first time we met, she was telling about her experiences in China. I was equally impressed a few years later, when I visited her tiny teaching corner in a local school and learned of her passion for helping students learn English as a second language. She willingly volunteered for P.A.S.T. projects. She loved history and was proud of her family heritage. She will be fondly missed! Barbara Bauer*

Barbara Bauer - February 11, 2021 at 06:38 PM

SH

“ Sorry to hear that we will no see Lora in Anna. She loved her community and her church and was active in both. We fondly remember when she helped us have an exchange student from Finland. She planned and participated in many activities that encouraged foreign students. She will be missed!

Shirley and Jim Harris - February 10, 2021 at 05:47 PM

GD

“ Gayle, so sorry. I really liked your mom. Only had her one year but learned more in that year than all the others.

Georgena Pitts Davis - February 09, 2021 at 09:49 PM

TW

“ Mrs. Blackwell was a music teacher at the Lick Creek Elementary School during my time there. She didn't just teach us how to read music - she introduced us to the Arts. She (along with her many talented contacts and friends) showed us how to bring Tom Sawyer to life, showed us how the West Was Really Won, and had us all in awe as Cinderella rode across the stage in her carriage.

We learned that hard work, practice, showing up early and staying late could and would make all the difference in our daily lives - not just the music room. She supported us, pushed us, and touched so many lives. To say 'thank you' is not enough.

-- Tammy Wheaton

Tammy Wheaton - February 09, 2021 at 11:28 AM

VM

Mrs. Blackwell was a Mother for many International Students at SIU; hrough her and Dear LaRue we learned what the kidness of the Southern Illinois people means.

Verena Morrón - February 14, 2021 at 11:38 AM