



Louise Williams

June 11, 1939 - November 11, 2019

Louise Williams, 80, of Anna, passed away on Monday, November 11, 2019 at St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau.

She was born June 11, 1939 in Grand Chain to Russell and Margaret (Herren) Heisner. She married Bruce Williams on January 31, 1957 and they shared 62 years of marriage.

Louise was a very caring and nurturing woman who opened up her home to many. Together she and Bruce raised 53 foster children. "Mama Lou" as she was known by some also was an international hospitality parent to many international students at SIU Edwardsville as well as SIU Carbondale since 1972. She loved animals and has raised miniature horses, goats, and sheep. At one time she had over 100 animals. She was very active in genealogy and the garden club and a passionate supporter of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry and the Carmi Baptist Children's Home. From 1967-1980 Louise was a real estate broker, managing Holzinger Real Estate in Staunton, Illinois and was a member of the Edwardsville-Collinsville Board of Realtors. She has been a member of Anna Heights Baptist Church since 1956 and a graduating member of Anna-Jonesboro High School class of 1957.

She is survived by her husband, Bruce Williams; 13 children, Mona (Alan)

Morgan, Melody (Bob) Snider, Dawn Holmes, Judy (Billy) Halter, Heather (Michael) Walker, Tony (Andrea) Williams, Holly (Dean) Barringer, Robin Brazel, Tammy (Chuck) Ridens, Belinda (Dan) Robertson, Tim Crippen, Jessica Crippen, Luciann (John) Barnitz; 40 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; brothers, Glenn (Juanita) Heisner, Fredrick Scott Heisner; half-sister, Peggy Ledbetter; other relatives and many friends.

Louise was preceded in death by her father, Russell Heisner; mother and step-father, Margaret and Elmer Wilson; son, Shawn Williams; son-in-law, Michael Brazel; grandson, Micah Williams; great granddaughter, Adleigh Cuevos; half-sister, Nola Jean Heisner.

The visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Anna Heights Baptist Church in Anna, Illinois. Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM, Saturday at the church with Rev. Darryl Williams officiating. Interment will follow in Anna City Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Anna Heights Baptist Church, Holt International, an organization Louise supported for many years, or the Carmi Baptist Children's Home. Envelopes will be provided at the funeral home and church.

Cemetery Details

Anna Cemetery

E Davie St
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-4083

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **16**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Anna Heights Baptist Church
100 Turner Ave
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-5916

Service

NOV **16**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Anna Heights Baptist Church
100 Turner Ave
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-5916

Tribute Wall



“ Louise Williams

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Mama Lou was like a mother to me. I loved spending time with her at her place, helping her taking care of her animals, riding her Strawberry Shortcake, working in her garden, and listening to her stories about her adopted children and hosted students. I loved her laughter, her sense of humor, and her golden heart. I still can hear the sound of her truck pulling into the parking lot of my apartment. I still remember the beautiful yellow-blue dress she wore at my wedding and the sunflower bouquet she made for me. We still have the Give-Thanks-for-Simple-Blessings sign Papa Bruce and her gave to us on our wedding. I miss our long long-distance calls when I got an update on her whereabouts. Words can never describe our memories. I love you, Mama Lou. You led a wonderful life. Lots of love from Vien, William, Vivien and Willito*

Vien & William - November 20, 2019 at 10:16 PM

MI

“ I was introduced to Mama Lou through my friends from my Master's program at SIUC. Mama Lou showed great love to not only her family and friends, but also students like me who traveled across the world to study. I spent a couple of nights at Mama Lou and Papa Bruce's place in the Fall of 2010. Though a short time, being with them allowed me to learn how to love and care for a fellow human being without asking for return.



Mama Lou, thank you so much for leaving so much love and kindness on earth. May you rest in peace. You will forever be in our memory!

My deepest condolences to Papa Bruce and family.

Miranda Ma from Macau
SIUC graduate 2011

Miranda - November 20, 2019 at 02:29 AM

PV

“ We called her Mama Lou since we were students at SIU. She represented the best of what she truly believed. She had a big heart and a friendly smile to cheer us up anytime we met her. Mama Lou will remain in our hearts forever. Rest in Peace, Mama Lou!

Phu Vu - November 18, 2019 at 09:15 AM

JH

“ We remember the sweet spirit of Louise when we attended Church with her. Our love and sympathy to her family. Sincerely, Jim and Shirley Harris

Jim and Shirley Harris - November 16, 2019 at 06:12 PM

KK

“ I am so sad to hear that we lost one of the greatest person in the world, I remember it was January, 2011. Some families from Iraq just arrived to Carbondale, IL. They did not have furniture, Tv, sofa, table, toys we got a hold to Mama Lou through Ms Bening, after a day Mama Lou came by with two gentlemen and with two trucks full of furniture. Then we sat down for two hours, she offered helps for new families and us. She was very kind, generous, lovely person with a great heart full of love and passion. She will be in our heart. Rest in Pease.



karwan kakabra kakamad - November 16, 2019 at 09:34 AM

JS

“ Louise was a blessing to all who knew her--Sympathy to Bruce & Family--John Schumacher--Anna, Illinois

John Schumacher - November 16, 2019 at 08:21 AM

ED

“ Mama Lou was such a Blessing to my family in BCM. She would always come and greet us, talk to us and just show God's love. We always admired and appreciated her commitment to international students and how proud she always talked about us. Thanks for every smile and every word! Always in our hearts!
Our prayers for God's comfort to all her beloved ones.
Edgar, Alba and Sara Orduz (Colombia, South America)

Edgar - November 15, 2019 at 10:23 PM

CL

“ Contemporary Landscape purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Louise Williams.



Contemporary Landscape - November 15, 2019 at 01:39 PM

SD

“ Sharon and John Dawdy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Louise Williams.



Sharon and John Dawdy - November 15, 2019 at 10:07 AM

AW

“ I will always giggle when I think of Mama Lou saying "My kids bought me a Jitterbug cell phone. I wish it would jitterbug right into the trash can!" I remember how hard my Dad laughed at that and, now that he's passed on, I thank her for both beautiful memories. RIP Louise!



Andrea Williams - November 13, 2019 at 07:09 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Louise Williams.



November 13, 2019 at 07:01 PM

MW

“ Louise was a wonderful person and friend. Always helping everyone. An asset to our City and community! Sending prayers for comfort to your family. We know Louise is in a wonderful place now waiting on her loved ones and worshiping God everyday! Martha Ann Webb

Martha Ann Webb - November 13, 2019 at 01:28 PM

SI

“ Sid lit a candle in memory of Louise Williams



Sid - November 12, 2019 at 07:33 AM