



Carleen H. Bach

September 7, 1920 - August 4, 2019

Carleen H. Swartz Bach was lovingly supported by family and friends until she passed away August 4, 2019, at age 98 in Topeka, Kansas.

Carleen "Carla" was born in Dwight, Kansas on September 7, 1920, on the family farm, a child of the Great Depression, Prohibition and Dust Bowl era. She was the daughter of John Harrison "Harry" and Birdie Lynn Crute Swartz. Carla graduated from Dwight Rural High School in 1938 and attended nursing school in Salina, Kansas. She married Michael Metzger in 1940. From this union two daughters were born. Carla was active in World War II at Boeing in Wichita, Kansas, working on the first B-52 that shipped from that plant. In 1946, Carla boarded a ship with her daughters, aged 5 and 6, and traveled to Germany to join their father who was serving in the Army. Throughout the 50's she was a single mother who raised her children with the loving support of her family. During this time, she lived in Dwight and had two jobs: working at Fort Riley, Kansas and at the local grocery store on the weekend. Her high school classmate, Lee Bach, returning from a 20-year naval career, chanced into her grocery store in Dwight and they were reacquainted. They married in 1961, sharing 51 years of happiness together before his passing in 2012. Her government career took them to Topeka, St. Joseph, Missouri, Omaha, Nebraska, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Carla worked primarily for the Social Security Administration. She was a member of the council that instituted the Medicare program, and while on this task force met President Johnson and President Truman. After retirement from the government, Carla continued a decade long career in estate sales management and participated in a variety of volunteer and community activities in Las Cruces and El Paso, TX, where she and Lee resided until 2008. They returned to Kansas, living in Overbrook, where many dear friendships were made. She loved people and helping those in need. Above all, Carla enjoyed visiting with her family and friends. She was known for her energy, sense of humor and generosity.

Carla most recently lived at McCrite's retirement community in Topeka. One of her activities at McCrite's was to deliver the daily Topeka Capital-Journal to two floors in the building. She made many close friends there and enjoyed the events they shared,

especially volunteer activities such as the Harvester's project. Carla loved cooking, reading, growing things, shopping for garage sale bargains and watching sports, especially the Kansas State Wildcats and the Green Bay Packers. She welcomed adventure, riding in a hot air balloon in her 70's, visiting Boston in her 80's, and traveling to New Mexico and Michigan in her 90's to visit family.

Carla was a lifetime member of the Dwight Methodist Church, was a member of Overbrook Library, and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lee; and 9 siblings, Katherine, Martin, John, twin brother, Carl, infant brother Robert Lee, Pauline "Peg", Harriette, Billie Joyce, and Nora. She was also preceded in death by her son -in-law, Harold Fuller, grandson, Thad Fuller, and son-in-law, Allan Coon.

She is survived by her two daughters, Eula Lee Metzger Fuller and Connie Marie Metzger Horne; grandchildren, Deborah Coon, Christine Lipscomb and husband Steve, Stephen Fuller, Sean Fuller and wife Amanda, Angela Horne and Laura Horne Popp; great-grandchildren, Christopher Wesley, Joshua Fontius, Jacob Fontius, and Kendall Grace Fuller; great-great grandchildren, James, Kaylee Ann, and Sophi Black; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family is grateful for the loving care provided by the excellent staff at Midland Care – Hospice House in Topeka, KS.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Friday, August 9, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Memorial service will be 2 p.m. Saturday, August 10, at Dwight United Methodist Church, 501 7th Street, Dwight KS 66849, with visitation one-hour prior. Inurnment to follow in Dwight Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dwight Methodist Church or Midland Care Hospice House, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery

Dwight Cemetery

Dwight, KS, 66849

Events

AUG 9 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM
Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS, US, 66614

AUG 10 **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM
Dwight United Methodist Church
501 7th Street, Dwight, KS, US, 66849

AUG 10 **Memorial Service** 02:00PM
Dwight United Methodist Church
501 7th Street, Dwight, KS, US, 66849

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - August 09, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ Carlene was a beautiful lady! I helped to care for her husband while he was at Brookside. She never missed a day to visit him and help him as needed. She tried to keep life as normal for him as she could, sitting down to share a meal, reading news to him or anything else they had done together. Hopefully they are reunited in Heaven, together again. My sincere condolences. Maggie Durino, former Brookside employee.

Maggie Durino - August 12, 2019 at 10:51 AM



“ I took care of Carleen's hearing aids for her. She was always a wonderful presence visiting my office, but struggled to visit me in recent years to have them cleaned or adjusted. So I started visiting her every other month or so instead. She always waited for me in the hall, watching for my car knowing I would swing by after my last appointment of the day. She also always made sure to have a candy bar treat for me as a token of her appreciation. During every visit she would ask me about my kids, especially my oldest and offer some very good words of wisdom for raising a teenage girl properly. She would remember everything too, which always impressed me! When finished, she often requested a hug and made sure to make me promise to drive home carefully. I still have that image of her with her walker waiting for me on the other side of the window as I pulled into the lot, probably observing the ducks and the fountain out front while waiting.

She was a wonderful presence, a wonderful patient, and we at Beltone will miss her. Our sincerest condolences to her family.

Chris Baker - August 10, 2019 at 12:54 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Aunt Carleen. She almost made it to 100! I think back to the last few times I visited with her and I was amazed at her quick wit and wonderful memory. I especially enjoyed hearing about her guidance with my Mom & Dad when they were newlyweds regarding financial matters. She was the "big sister" to my Mother, Hallie. I can think of many memories but the one that stands out for me is her "angel food" cake. It was delicious! My heart is with you Eula Lee, Connie & family.

Love,
Judy Brewer Buchman

Judy Buchman - August 09, 2019 at 08:17 PM



“ Carlene meant the world to me. It makes me smile to know her and Lee are back together. I feel bad as I had been to see her in a couple of months. She will be missed. Marty Buchmeier

Marty Buchmeier - August 08, 2019 at 06:56 PM



“ when Aunt Carlene married Uncle Lee when I was about 10 or 11 years old they took me to a Shriner circus in Topeka I had such a wonderful magical time and it was so kind of them to take me that's just one of my many wonderful memories up Aunt Carla. She will be missed terribly

Kathy - August 08, 2019 at 12:27 PM