



Leah Hefner

September 12, 1921 - February 24, 2022

Leah Irene Taddiken Hefner, 100 years old, Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully Thursday, February 24, 2022, at Presbyterian Manor surrounded by her family.

Leah was born September 12, 1921, in Clay Center, Kansas to Will F. Taddiken and Mary Ellen (Palmer) Taddiken. Leah spent her childhood in Morganville, Kansas graduating from Morganville High School in 1939. Leah worked for her father as a telephone operator during her high school summers until entering nurses training at Jane C. Stormont Hospital in Topeka in September of 1941. Leah was a member of the U.S Cadet Nurses Corps, graduated with her nursing degree in 1944 and worked for Winter General Hospital (now Colmery-O'Neil VA Hospital) as a civilian nurse until there were sufficient Army nurses to staff the hospital.

Leah married John H. Hefner in 1945; they later divorced. She spent several years as a homemaker and mother. She re-entered the nursing profession in 1955 at the VA Hospital, where she worked for 28 years until she retired in 1982.

In retirement, Leah was involved in Sweet Adelines, Mary Kay Cosmetics, the Red Hat Society, the Nurses Alumni Association, Topeka Woman's Club, Moose Lodge and the National Association of Federal Employees. Leah loved

music and sang in the church choir at Highland Park United Methodist Church for 26 years, and with the Shawnee County Choral Society. She supported the Topeka Symphony and Topeka Jazz workshop.

Leah was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Jean Kretzmeier and her son-in-law, Floyd Dugan. She is survived by her daughters, Sharon (Jim) Watkins of Topeka, Teresa Dugan of Ocala, Florida and Patricia (Harold) Stones of Topeka; granddaughters, Cassie (Jerry) Walter of Topeka, Jennifer (James) Powers of Topeka; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson; and many nieces and nephews.

Leah was a strong woman and role model to many who also raised children as a single parent. She remained active and interested in many things well into her 99th year until she suffered a stroke. Leah celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends who loved her dearly and will miss her always smiling face.

Family will greet friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where her Memorial Service will follow at 10:30.

Committal service will be at 1:30 p.m. in Greenwood Cemetery, Clay Center, KS.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

501 Franklin Street
Clay Center, KS 67432

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Memorial Service

MAR 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Committal Service

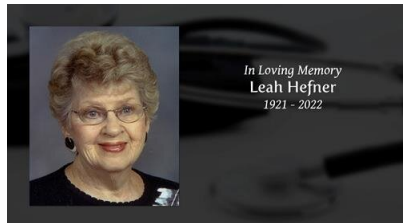
MAR 2. 1:30 PM (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery
501 Franklin Street
Clay Center, KS 67432

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leah Hefner



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 26, 2022 at 02:24 PM

JG

My parents were also born and raised in Clay Center, I remember family members mentioning the Taddikens on many occasions. Prayers to the family.

Judy Heikes Gatewood - February 27, 2022 at 09:33 AM



“ Leah Hefner

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

BS

“ Bob & Kerry Storey lit a candle in memory of Leah Hefner



Bob & Kerry Storey - July 16, 2022 at 12:47 PM

CC

“ Clay County Taddiken Cousins purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Leah Hefner.



Clay County Taddiken Cousins - February 28, 2022 at 03:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leah Hefner.



February 28, 2022 at 02:59 PM

CS

“ Sharon, Jim & Family,
I was saddened to read of Leah's passing, but what a long and fruitful life she lived to reach 100! She was a role model of a woman "making it on her own," and feel badly that she had to endure a stroke before leaving you. She had told me point blank several years ago that she was "ready to go" because her world had changed, older family and friends all gone, favorite restaurants closed and knowing she was slowing down. I will always remember seeing her in different places and events all these years since we were neighbors so long ago. Thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Leah was a fiercely independent woman who loved her family dearly and will be remembered as a unique pillar of your family.

*Sincerely,
Carol DeGroff Sook*

Carol Sook - February 28, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Leah Hefner.



February 28, 2022 at 11:28 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Leah Hefner.



February 28, 2022 at 10:15 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leah Hefner.



February 28, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leah Hefner.



February 27, 2022 at 04:07 PM

CB

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of your mother. She was quite a woman and strong as they come.

I recall as a young grade school friend of Patty's, that we decided to bake brownies while Leah was at work. We pre-heated the oven and a few minutes later the most toxic odor wafted out of the oven. We hadn't realized that the cake pan with a plastic lid was stored in the oven. We hid the melted lid stuck to the pan and tried to air out the house by opening windows and running around fanning the air with towels. After a long 2-3 hours wait, Leah arrived. We thought we had our problem solved, and pretended to be busy with a game. Within 5 seconds, Leah demanded to know what the smell was and what have we girls been doing. After feigning our ignorance, about 5 minutes later Leah found the guilty pan. And, since we had been less than honest about the event, the rest of my overnight stay was rather somber with an early bed time!

I look back on this and think of her as a great mom who didn't let shenanigans get past her one bit. May she rest in peace.

Colette (Neubauer) Bernica

Colette Bernica - February 27, 2022 at 04:01 PM

JH

“ We always shared a table with your Mom at Topeka Jazz Workshop. She had so much wit and beautiful smile. We loved spending the afternoon with her.

Don & Joyce Hemme

Joyce Hemme - February 27, 2022 at 02:45 PM

GL

“ Sharon, Teresa, and Patty
I was so sorry to hear about your mom. She was always nice to me growing up. I remember my mom, Mrs. Hanson, and your mom getting together for coffee. They had such a good time together.

Greg Lee

Greg Lee - February 27, 2022 at 11:38 AM

BF

“ Sharon and Jim, Jeannene and I want to send our condolences for your loss. You're in our prayers.

Bobby Freeman - February 26, 2022 at 11:09 AM

PP

Patty,

*I didn't know your sisters but I sure knew your Mom. What a pistol. I would often run into her around town and if I missed seeing her she would chase me down. She was so sharp, opinionated maybe but I loved her strength and commitment. She was raising her family as a single Mother as was my Mom. My Mom also was a RN at the VA. She told me that she use to work with her and that kind of surprised me as she died in 1965. My Dad died in 1956 so she then went back to nursing as your Mom did. I use to sing with your Mom and very much enjoyed getting to know her. She was a class act. Hoping you have wonderful memories to carry with you. Praying for your whole family.
Pam Parry*

Pam Parry - February 28, 2022 at 12:37 PM