



Linda L. Goodman

March 7, 1937 - January 21, 2026

Linda L. Goodman, 88, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Lutheran Home Hospice Unit.

She was born March 7, 1937, in Du Quoin, Illinois, to Lawrence and Mildred Dudley Gilliam.

She and Kenneth H. Goodman were married January 31, 1976, in Cape Girardeau. He preceded her in death on July 10, 1997.

Linda was a 1955 graduate of Du Quoin Illinois High School. She was also a member of the first graduating class from Barnes Hospital School of Nursing in 1958.

For 38 years, Linda served as a registered nurse. She was a school nurse for the Cape Girardeau Public Schools from 1967-1996, serving 15 of those years as the head school nurse where she authored the AIDS Policy for the district. Among her many accomplishments, she wrote the Practical Nursing program for the Vo-Tech School in Cape. She was a Missouri State Teachers Association Dept. of Nursing board member for six years and board president for one year. She worked with the Missouri Highway Traffic Safety - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program for 18 years. For several years, she taught CPR through the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association, and for several more years she worked part-time at Southeast Hospital. After retirement from nursing, she worked part-time for 18 years in the SEMO University Bookstore.

Linda volunteered at the Community Food Pantry and St. Francis Medical

Center. For many years, she went on mission trips through her church to Appalachia to help distressed communities and was involved in various other church activities. In later years, she was a beloved member of the prayer shawl ministry at the Lutheran Home and served on the resident board at Saxony Village.

In her spare time, she was an avid reader and loved history.

She was a member of Maple United Methodist Church.

Survivors include three daughters: Leslie (Jim) Meyer of Momence, Illinois, Cindy (Tom) Swigonski of Cape Girardeau, and Karen (Dave) Bolen of St. Louis; two stepdaughters: Debra (Tim) Coffman of Anna, Illinois, and Debbie (Dan) Eaves of Du Quoin; sister, Judy (Bob, deceased) Payne of Du Quoin; five grandchildren, Christopher J. (Lexi) Orta, Britney (Curtis) Ackman, Jennifer N. Orta, Joseph J. (Madison) Meyer, and Mariah Schott; eight step-grandchildren, Heather Coffman, Kyle (Jeanna) Coffman, Mandy (Troy) Phillips, Gretchen (Frankie) James, Carry (Chantel) Bailey, Kaitlyn Swigonski, Samantha (Mike) Failoni, and Nick Swigonski; 20 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am to noon on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow at noon Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the funeral home with the Rev. Jim Cooper officiating.

Entombment will follow at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to Muscular Dystrophy Association, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum

2315 Highway 61 N
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

RW

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Linda. Have some great memories from working with her at May Greene when I was the coach there. So friendly and always smiling. Will always remember her. Prayers for all the family. God Bless. 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤�

Roger D Williams - January 29 at 08:38 PM



“ She was such a sweet lady! She was very kind and very helpful to me when I learned I had diabetes! I will never forget her! Condoences to all! May the Lord be with you and comfort you during this time of grief.
Janeen McCormick Ledbetter

Janeen Penny Ledbetter - January 28 at 10:50 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Linda L. Goodman.



January 27 at 03:23 PM

YC

“ Your Alliance Water Colleagues planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda L. Goodman.

Your Alliance Water Colleagues - January 27 at 03:23 PM

HC

“ Heather C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda L. Goodman.

Heather C. - January 26 at 06:15 PM



“ I was a classmate of Linda from the Du Quoin Township high school class of 1955. Our classmates spent some precious times visiting at Linda's house in Cape Girardeau - always a pleasure to be with her. Love and prayers to the entire family at this difficult time. Marlene (Albers) Wolfe

Marlene Wolfe - January 26 at 11:38 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Linda L. Goodman.



January 25 at 09:35 PM

SD

“ Stephanie, Jenny, Becky, Judy & Dana purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Linda L. Goodman.



Stephanie, Jenny, Becky, Judy & Dana - January 25 at 06:28 PM

PC

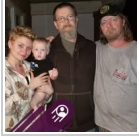
“ I had the pleasure of meeting this amazing woman over forty years ago while student teaching at Franklin Elementary School. She was the school nurse there with the kindest, friendliest, and most welcoming disposition. At the same time, our paths crossed when I worked nights at Port Cape, and she and her husband would dine there frequently. She attended my wedding a short time later, but the best gifts of our friendship arrived years later. For many years she would be a guest at our school’s annual Grandparents Day; her granddaughters would be my students, and her daughter would become a trusted coworker and friend. Linda certainly left this earth a beautiful legacy of both family, as well as her community contributions.

Paula Castleman - January 25 at 04:07 PM

GR

“ Linda was such a joy to be with. For many years we were “next door neighbors,” not where our house addresses were, but at Central Junior High School. Her clinic was next door to our guidance offices where I served as a counselor. We had a connecting door between our two suites. I learned a lot from Linda about “first, do no harm” motto nurses and medical servants adhere to. She was such a joy to learn from. There were times when she was out of the building, and my colleagues and I attempted to administer emergency services, certainly not at the level of her expertise. Her obituary tells you (and myself) of her servant heart. She was certainly a very giving person. I miss her already and look forward to seeing her again in Heaven.

Gerald Richards - January 24 at 11:13 PM



“ I remember Mrs Goodman well. She was always nice and had a kind heart. Took her job as a nurse seriously. Helped many students throughout her career in the school system. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Rafard Russell - January 24 at 10:04 PM



“ Linda was a warm, caring, Christian who saw humor in situations that could turn others around to view the world more positively. I went on mission trips with her, laughed when I visited with her at Saxony or at Maple. She was a kind hearted beautiful woman who could put together a jigsaw puzzle with the best of them. She will be missed. Adelaide Parsons

Adelaide Parsons - January 24 at 01:37 PM

SH

“ Our mom thought world of her cousin Linda. She was heartbroken when mom got sick and a great comfort to us. A great letter writer, and truly an inspiration to all whose life she touched. Thinking fondly of our trips to Cape when we were so very young. Sending heartfelt thoughts and prayers...The family of Dave and Nancy Hinton

Sharon (Hinton) Hunn - January 23 at 03:20 PM