



Nelda Frances Simpson

December 28, 1931 - March 18, 2019

Nelda Frances Underwood Simpson, 87, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Monday, March 18, 2019 at Saint Francis Medical Center.

She was the oldest of seven children, born December 28, 1931 in Stoddard County, Missouri to John Milford and Hallie Frances Gillespie Underwood.

She and Thomas Wilbur Simpson were married August 8, 1953 at Bloomfield, Missouri. He preceded her in death on March 22, 2018.

She graduated as Valedictorian from Bloomfield High School in 1948. She graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1954, Magna Cum Laude.

She moved to St. Louis, Missouri after college then to Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

She taught for three years in a rural one-room school in Southeast Missouri, three years in Webster Groves, Missouri and as a substitute teacher for 11 years in Southern Illinois.

While in Mt. Carmel she was a member of First Christian Church, serving in several offices. She was named one of the 20 outstanding women nationwide in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 2002.

She was a member of PEO Sisterhood, Girl Scout leader and 4-H leader for many years. She served for six years as President of Shagbark Girl Scout Council in Southern Illinois.

She is survived by two daughters, Judith Divan of San Juan Capistrano, California and Jane (Ralph) Smith of Smyrna, Tennessee; one son-in-law, David Vandenberg of Murrieta, California; four brothers, James W. Underwood of Columbia, Missouri, Dennis D. Underwood of Cape Girardeau, Doyle R. Underwood of Saint Louis, Missouri and Brian C. Underwood of Saint Louis, Missouri; sister, Alice C. Kofman of Leominster, Massachusetts; four grandchildren, Paul E. (Jennifer) Divan of Des Moines, Iowa, Nicholas J. (Jennifer) Divan of Saint Louis, Missouri, Benjamin D. (Shelley Bryant) Smith of Portland, Oregon and Jillian S. Smith of Saint Louis, Missouri; one great-grandchild, Theo Bryant Smith of Portland, Oregon; four step-grandchild, Bastiaan (Alyssa) Vandenberg, Virginia Vandenberg, Nathaniel Vandenberg and Arie Vandenberg all of California.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one daughter, Jari Annette Simpson Vandenberg; and one brother, John M. Underwood.

Visitation will be held 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at Abbey Road Christian Church in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial service will follow at 2:00 pm Saturday at the church with the Rev. Doug Job officiating.

Private inurnment will be at Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be given to Girl Scouts of America at

girlscouts.org/en/adults/donate.html.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery

17357 Stars & Stripes Way
Bloomfield, MO 63825

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Abbey Road Christian Church
2411 Abbey Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Memorial Service

MAR 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

Abbey Road Christian Church
2411 Abbey Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

ND

“ *Nelda and Tom Simpson were caring and good people who had a beautiful daughter, Jari who married my brother David. The kindness and love they and all the Simpson family extended to David and children Arie, Nathaniel, Virginia and Bas made their lives a joy. I will be forever grateful.*
Nan Duffly

Nan Duffly - March 29, 2019 at 09:25 PM

ND

“ *Nan and Paul Duffly purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Nelda Frances Simpson.*



Nan and Paul Duffly - March 29, 2019 at 09:20 PM

DN

“ *Dana, Betty, Jo, Jan, Mary, Barbara, Liz & Norma purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Nelda Frances Simpson.*



Dana, Betty, Jo, Jan, Mary, Barbara, Liz & Norma - March 28, 2019 at 11:58 AM

JL

“ Nelda Simpson was a beautiful woman and spirit. I had the pleasure of doing her hair for many years while she resided in Mt.Carmel, Il. My friend Joyce worked with Nelda at McCustion Distibuting. Nelda always had a smile on her face and always saw the good in people. It brings me great sadness that I read in the Mt.Carmel paper of her passing. I did not realize that Tom had passed as well. Almost a year to date. Now they are together again. I wish I could make the trip to the funeral, however I cannot. My heart and prayers go out to her family and Nelda will be deeply missed. The greats of Mt.Carmel are now becoming Angel's looking down on us. Prayers for comfort to her family and friends! Love, Jaleigh Kramer Lashbrook



Jaleigh Kramer Lashbrook - March 27, 2019 at 11:35 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nelda Frances Simpson.



March 27, 2019 at 12:01 PM

KC

“ Judy, so sorry to hear of your mother's death. She was such a sweet lady. Prayers.



Kim Seibert Calabrese - March 24, 2019 at 07:32 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Nelda Frances Simpson.*



March 24, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ *Linda Stevenson Green lit a candle in memory of Nelda Frances Simpson*



Linda Stevenson Green - March 23, 2019 at 02:32 AM



“ *I am heartbroken to learn of Nelda's passing. As so many people have said, she was such a mentor to so many people for many years. May her loved ones take comfort in the fact that she is rejoicing with Jesus, alongside Jari and Tom.*

Susan Nommensen - March 21, 2019 at 10:00 PM



“ *Dana Tate, Mike & Ricki Hays, Hilary & Heather purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Nelda Frances Simpson.*



Dana Tate, Mike & Ricki Hays, Hilary & Heather - March 21, 2019 at 07:28 PM

TT

“ I have such wonderful memories of Mrs. Simpson. She was one of my Girl Scout leaders who enriched my life more than I realized at the time I was in scouts. Camping, trip to Chicago, flaming Banana Foster just to mention a few. My condolences to the family. She was a remarkable woman!

Teresa (Weir) Thomas - March 21, 2019 at 06:29 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Nelda Frances Simpson.



March 21, 2019 at 04:30 PM

NH

“ Accept my sympathies Jane. I spoke briefly to you at the hospital as my Dad is a patient. Your Mother is at peace.
Nancy

Nancy House - March 20, 2019 at 02:10 PM