



Rena May Lawson

December 7, 1926 - September 27, 2017

Rena M. Lawson, 90, of Polk, NE, walked into the arms of her Savior on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at her home in Polk. Funeral services will be on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Polk with Pastor Myron Stafford officiating. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 5th from 5-7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Polk. Interment will be at the Laclede Cemetery near Polk. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.soltwagnerfuneral.com.

Rena May Willits was born on December 7, 1926 to Grant and Mildred Willits on the family farm near Polk, NE. She spent her childhood in the Polk area attending Rural School District 46 and then High Prairie High. Rena graduated from high school in 1944 and then attended summer school at Kearney State Teachers College. She completed the teacher certification exams and became a rural school teacher. She taught South of Polk for two years before returning to school. From 1946-1948 she attended Bethel College in St Paul, MN. She then taught in the York County Schools for three years. Rena received her B.A. in Education in 1952 from the University of Nebraska and then taught for seven years in Lincoln. In 1959 she started her master's degree at the University of Denver, and received her degree while teaching in the Denver Public Schools.

Rena met Eldon "Bud" Lawson while living in Denver and the two were united

in marriage on January 27, 1962 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Denver. The couple moved to Moses Lake, Washington and then to Glendale, AZ. Rena began teaching in the Cartwright School District as well as helping Bud farm and run their custom hay operation in the Glendale and West Phoenix Valley area. Following Bud's death, Rena would spend part of her time near her daughter Melody, in Polk, NE as well as at her home in Peoria, AZ

Rena loved music! She was a faithful church organist and pianist most of her life. When she wasn't playing the organ she was singing in the choir or with her beloved Harmony Trio. Rena was a wonderful cook and enjoyed sewing. She was a faithful prayer warrior. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Glendale, serving as a Sunday school teacher. When she moved to Polk, she then became a member of the First Baptist Church in Polk. In Polk, she loved substituting as organist and pianist, playing as recently as this Sunday for church services. She was an active member of the Arizona Farm Bureau, and chaired the Women's Committee for several years. She is an Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient and Honorary National FFA Degree Recipient. She loved participating in Bible Study Fellowship.

Those left to cherish her memory are; her daughter – Melody (Kevin) Sandell of Polk, NE; her grandchildren – Chloe Brienne Sandell and Noah Loy Sandell of Polk, NE; and her brother – Dale (Dulcie) Willits of Colorado Springs, CO along with many nieces nephews, dear friends and neighbors

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Eldon "Bud" Lawson, her brother Robert Willits and sister-in-law Alice Willits.

Cemetery Details

LaClede

Polk, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **5**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
Polk, NE 68654

Funeral Service

OCT **6**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
Polk, NE 68654

Tribute Wall

AP

“ Holding our Arizona family close as we grieve the loss of beautiful Rena May, and celebrate her gain in the arms of her precious Jesus. Such a faithful friend she has been--to our parents, our family and to us kids. My childhood was beautifully shaped by the family we found in you all! We love you so much!
Andrea Pauls -

Andrea Pauls - October 06, 2017 at 11:44 AM

BW

“ Loss of a parent is never without grief and sorrow. Knowing that they are in that place where they have always aspired to be is comforting. Our Aunt Rena may lived life in the fullest. Always there with a helping hand, she leaves many friends and relatives with an emptiness and fullness at the same time. Aunt May May, you will be missed.

Bill & Irene Willits

Bill Willits - October 05, 2017 at 08:31 AM

KB

“ The Lawsons were good neighbors and friends. It is great that she lived such a long and happy life. Melody, you and your family have all of the wonderful memories you have built through the years.
Thinking of you at this sad time---Katie Baskett

Katherine Baskett - October 04, 2017 at 12:37 PM

BW

“ *The loss of a loved one is so very hard, to Melody and Kevin a mother, to Chloe and Noah and grandmother, to Dad a sister, to all my cousins, brothers and sister an Aunt, and to countless friends a friend. Please know that you have our love, prayers, and support always. We will miss our sweet Aunt May May dearly.*



Brian & Kathy Willits - October 03, 2017 at 03:45 PM



“ *Melody, I remember your mother from high school days and also from seeing her often in Phoenix. She was a special lady and I always enjoyed visiting with her. My condolences to you and your family. I know how much you'll miss her. Dorothy Cramer*

Dorothy Cramer - October 03, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Rena May Lawson.*



October 03, 2017 at 12:23 PM

KS

“ I didn't know Rena, but read her obituary in my local (AZ Republic) paper. What a woman!! I mostly wanted to tell you how much I loved the wording "walked into the arms of her savior." I will tell my children that this is how I want my obituary to read. My sympathy to you all.

Kay Slaven
kslaven@cox.net

Kay Slaven - October 03, 2017 at 11:23 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Rena May Lawson.



October 03, 2017 at 12:07 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Rena May Lawson.



October 02, 2017 at 06:06 PM

MW

“ *Rena May was a special lady and friend. Her friendship was special. She will be missed by so many. She stopped in to see me in York and what a special visit we had! God's Blessings to the family. Love, Melba Willits*

Melba Willits - October 02, 2017 at 01:31 PM

AP

Holding our Arizona family close as we grieve the loss of beautiful Rena May, and celebrate her gain in the arms of her precious Jesus. Such a faithful friend she has been--to our parents, our family and to us kids. My childhood was beautifully shaped by the family we found in you all! We love you so much!

Andrea Pauls - October 06, 2017 at 11:42 AM