



Mrs. Lolita Bennett Keffer

November 23, 1932 - December 17, 2022

It has been said “To love and to be loved is the greatest joy on Earth.” For those who knew

Lolita Bennett Keffer, this is especially true. Lolita passed away on December 17, 2022, She

left a rich legacy of loving others and being loved in return.

Lolita was born on November 23, 1932, in White County, Arkansas. As a young lady, she

accepted Christ as her savior and was baptized at Good Springs Baptist Church, which still stands today.

She graduated from Pangburn High School in 1952. She then married William Lee Keffer and

moved to Arkansas County, where they have lived for 70 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nora Lavena Orman Bennett and Henry Eugene

Bennett, brothers Edward Eugene Bennett and Henry Dwane Bennett, sisters Barbara Ann

Quattlebaum and Mary Carolyn Lawson, granddaughter Karry Lynn Keffer and grandson Grant

Stephen Keffer.

She is survived by her husband William Lee Keffer, and her four children, Steve (Karen) Keffer,

Mary Ann (Ronnie) Case, David Keffer, and Charles Ray (Terri) Keffer.
Grandchildren Lisa
(Greg) Riggins, Lee Keffer, Dylan (Aubrey) Keffer, Stevie (Kara). Great
grandchildren Logan
(Emma) Watts, Greyson Riggins, Carson Riggins, Braddock Keffer, Trenton
Keffer, Jolea Keffer,
Calli Keffer, Kain Keffer, Charlie Keffer and David Owen Cole Keffer. Sisters,
Pat Hudson and Jenny Tufts. A very special niece Jamie Martin and nephews
Wesley and Randy Staton. Also, Neil Wegert for
whom she was a personal guardian for well over 30 years.
She is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews as well as an entire
community that she
dearly loved.
She spent her life caring for her family's every need and she was the glue that
kept them
together. She loved to cook large meals for them, which often included extra
guests. She loved
tending her garden and preparing food for her freezer, as well as canning
goods and she shared
her hard work not only with her family, but others in the community. She would
help anyone in
any way she could, including babysitting other children. She could nurture the
fussiest of babies
and calm them. Her home was always a special stop for kids (and parents)
when they were trick
or treating because she always had homemade pumpkin bread ready for
them. Her kitchen
always smelled of a homemade aroma whenever you were there. She made
personal wedding
cakes and birthday cakes for her family and friends. She loved all critters and
always made

sure that they were taken care of. She assisted on the farm by driving a Bob Truck and a Grain Cart. She enjoyed selling Avon as her time would allow. One of her favorite services was to work at election polls. She greeted everyone with a smile and a friendly conversation. She loved going to church and singing her favorite hymns with Christian fellowship. Lolita truly loved all and was loved by all that knew her. A service to celebrate her life will be 10:00 December 21 at Essex Funeral Home with burial in Cedarcrest Memorial Gardens. The family would also like to give a special thanks to Crestpark Nursing Home employees and Dr. Marion Hord

Cemetery Details

Cedarcrest Memorial Gardens

Hwy 1
DeWitt, AR 72042

Previous Events

Service

DEC 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

Essex Funeral Home
1405 South Grandview
DeWitt, AR 72042
(870) 946-3104
<https://www.essexfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

JM

“ My dear Aunt Lolita has always been a special part of my life. She was very close to my mom Charlene Keffer Staton, they shared so many precious moments together.

After losing my mom at age 7 from a tragic car accident caused by a drunk driver, my Aunt Lolita stepped right in and was always there for me along with my two brothers Wesley and Randy.

She always referred to us as her kids too, as she truly was my second mom.

One of my special memories is when I became a mother to my son Tyler. I had driven from a Dallas for a visit, when I arrived at Aunt Lolita's house and walked in with Tyler in his baby carrier I sat him on the kitchen table for Aunt Lolita to watch him for a minute. I turned around and all the sudden I heard Tyler say "Mama", just as loud and clear as he could. This was his first word and to share it with Aunt Lolita brought tears of joy to both of our eyes.

I know Aunt Lolita is with the Lord now and having a wonderful family reunion with all those that passed before her. I also know that the reunion she had with my mom greeting her with the warmest embrace and thanking Aunt Lolita for looking after her kids.

I love you my dear Aunt Lolita with all my heart.



Jamie Martin - December 24, 2022 at 10:49 AM

SR

“ *Your love and kindness was contagious. I remember going to see you when I was older and you gave me knife's and in return I gave you a penny which was tradition I still have those knife's to this day and they are the best just like you said they would be. Give dad a hug I know he will be happy to see you. Love Beana*



Sabina Real - December 21, 2022 at 12:15 PM

NM

“ Lolita has been my cherished friend, advisor, conscience, and confidante for over 50 years. We have talked about everything from Satan's worst to heaven's best. But today--today words are sooooo inadequate. I am lost to think of a world without Lolita. While the emptiness is enormous, I am secure in knowing that my loss is heaven's gain; and live in certainty that I'll see her again in a far better place.

Perhaps my most treasured memory of Lolita was when I took her to her beloved Pangburn, Arkansas to visit her 2 Aunts and see her hometown once again. After I moved to Heber Springs in 2015, we never spoke that she didn't ask me if I "came down through Pangburn". I have met a number of the older citizens there who remember Lolita as a beautiful young woman and feel sadness yet today because of her passing.

I have often said that I would not have gotten my daughters raised had it not been for Lolita being close by in every crisis. She was a natural nurse and had a cure for every ailment, a band-aide for every cut or scratch or broken heart.

It was a rare occurrence for me to pass Lolita's house without stopping in for one thing or another, even if it was just to quick look into the pots on the stove to see what she was cooking. She once called and asked if I was angry with her for some reason because I had not stopped by for a few days. How could anyone be angry with Lolita?!?

My heart goes out to William Lee and to Steve, Mary Ann, David, and Charles. In the morning I will make the long trip to DeWitt--not to say "Good-bye", but to share the joy of having been blessed to know Lolita for all these precious years.

Nan Milliken - December 20, 2022 at 10:22 PM

LB

“ Auntie Lolita was a very special lady. Loved by all who knew her. She was very wise ,loving,giving person. Took those in need under her wing .Loved her children very much a very devoted wife. She will be missed and she left us all with memories and lots of love . Love her to the moon and back!!!

Linda Berryman - December 20, 2022 at 07:05 PM

JB

“ We all lost a great person. She was an inspiration to everyone she came in contact with. She welcomed us with open arms. My father M J Berryman always looked forward to our yearly trip to visit every fall. She will forever live in my memories of the wonderful time we got spend at the Keffer's. She touched many lives in her time on Earth. She will be missed by all the people who were blessed to have known her. Peace and Prayers for the Family. She can rest now. She has definitely earned it.

James Berryman - December 20, 2022 at 03:54 PM

“ My beautiful Mamma . My rock , my friend , my teacher . I have so many memories of my childhood with her . It’s hard to pick just one . I could write a book . She had Steve first , and then three years later , she had me .

One story she always told about Steve , was when he was little , he saw a cotton field . He looked at those big white balls of cotton and said ;“ Wooooo Mamma , look at all them eggs !!

Over the years, that she and I traveled back and forth to Pine Bluff for Dr appointments , every time the cotton was ready to pick , we would laugh about that .

Mamma loved to go to Stanley parties , baby showers , wedding showers , school events .

As a child she made sure that my dress was pressed & I think she even pressed my underwear !! She made sure my hair was perfect , and my shoes were clean and shined . She taught me to be lady like at the parties that she took me to . She taught me to say yes mam & no mam , and to sit up straight and don’t slump my shoulders . She made sure that Steve and I had pets to love , as they taught us empathy , compassion and responsibility .

She made sure Steve looked after his little sister , Bless his heart , as I was quite the challenge most times . She once had to send Steve up under the house to get me , as I was in need of a whipping . Evidently I was pretty desperate to avoid being dragged out and I threw a rock and hit my poor big brother in the head . I have no memory of that incident , but Steve sure does .

As we grew older , Mamma taught us about Jesus . She also made sure we understood about the devil , and how he wants to make us say and do the wrong things . She wanted us to know from her example that Jesus was her savior and when we got old enough to understand everything , we would ask Jesus into our hearts .

After an eight year break, Mamma added to her family . First David , and then Charles .

By then I was eight . So then a whole new kind of learning set in . She taught me about how to change a diaper , how to rock them to sleep , how to watch over them and keep them from harm . Mamma was so proud of her family . She worked so hard , to make sure we

were all taken care of .

My Mamma was a beautiful lady , inside and out . Her light was as bright as a star .

I can just imagine the joyful reunion she had when she got to Heaven .



Mary Ann Case - December 20, 2022 at 02:11 PM

SC

Mary Ann your Mamma was a beautiful woman who loved her family and loved you deeply. My prayers are with you and your family, she will always live in your heart and you will carry on the beautiful legacy of her love and kindness. I love you my precious friend. Shelley Mitchell Carrigan

Shelley Carrigan - December 20, 2022 at 07:10 PM

BR

“ Our memories of Lolita are so joyful. She loved deeply and was loved deeply. Our family is thankful she came into our lives as family and friend. Prayers for all. Belvia and Charles Rodgers, Shan, Bradley, Brian, and Susannah

Belvia Rodgers - December 20, 2022 at 12:46 PM

RB

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. I know Mary Ann was so close to her Mamma. I pray that the family will have peace and some kind of comfort during the trying time. Our love to all of you.

Rich Bateman and Kerry Harris (Erie, PA)



Rich Bateman - December 20, 2022 at 10:27 AM

DM

“ My mother thought and loved Lolita as more like a daughter than a niece. It was always a very exciting event when she and the family came to visit. They kept in touch through letters which I think my mother kept and reread them all throughout the years. Lolita’s cooking skills were well known. She loved creating new recipes using, of course, rice! At one time, Pangburn, where she graduated high school, published a local news paper and Lolita was featured each week with one of her recipes along with a short note about the recipe or about her family. I know my Mother cut and saved each one! I wish I could find those recipes because I would have a treasure! Lolita always spread joy where ever she went and made everyone feel welcome. I’m so sad that she is no longer with us, but I rest assured that we will meet again in heaven. I imagine there has been a great reunion with my mother and all the family that has gone on before her, just like we used to do here on earth so many years ago! I can see that smile and I’m sure she was greeted with a big smile from my sister, Shirley, whose birthday was on the same day Lolita went to heaven! I am sad for the family because she will greatly be missed.

Love to all, Donna Whitehurst McNew

Donna Whitehurst McNew - December 20, 2022 at 09:34 AM

PD

“ Prentice And Sue Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lolita Bennett Keffer



Prentice and Sue Davis - December 20, 2022 at 09:01 AM

PD

So sorry...

Prentice and Sue Davis - December 20, 2022 at 09:02 AM

EL

“ I always loved to visit with Lolita when she came to the hospital as a patient or as a visitor. She was always so sweet no matter how bad she felt. I haven't seen her in several years, and I have missed her. My deepest sympathy to all her many family members and friends!! She was a real jewel!! Prayers for peace and guidance. Love to all the family.



Ester Hageman, Lpn - December 20, 2022 at 06:25 AM

KB

“ Aunt Lolita was such a gift to those that knew her. She always had the kindest spirit. She loved her cats, flowers and her chickens. Oh, and cooking! Her cornbread was heaven!! She included herself in our lives immensely. After fishing with Charles Ray, she beat Uncle out the door to inspect the fish we caught. She loved driving out to the old homestead and we loved hearing her stories on the way. Karl and I love you just as much in Heaven as we did on this Earth. You will be sadly missed, but you really are a free spirit with our Lord. We will see you again!! “A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps”. Proverbs 16:9 ❤️❤️❤️



Karl and Annette Bynum - December 19, 2022 at 07:02 PM

LS

“ Uncle William's favorite picture of Aunt Lolita



Lynne Spanel - December 19, 2022 at 05:18 PM

DA

Dad's favorite picture of Mom

David - December 19, 2022 at 05:25 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lolita Bennett Keffer.*



December 19, 2022 at 03:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lolita Bennett Keffer.*



December 19, 2022 at 01:49 PM