



Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham

May 17, 1972 - August 29, 2024

Melissa Jane Rush Grantham, 52, of Tichnor, passed away August 29, 2024, at her home. She was born on May 17, 1972, in Cass County, Missouri, to Harvey and Vicki Jacobs Rush.

Melissa was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Jason Grantham; their three beautiful daughters, Racheal Mary-Claire, Chloe Vianne Belle, and Ava-Grace Sloane Grantham, all of Tichnor; her sister, Racheal Faye Rush Cavicchio and brother-in-law David of New Hampshire; a large extended family and countless friends.

Melissa grew up in Tichnor where her parents ran Rush's Bait Shop. She graduated from Gillett High School and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Arkansas. She went on to complete her Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Arkansas at Monticello to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.

Melissa was a member of Gillett Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School for many years, organized vacation Bible schools and planned youth trips. She was a member of the Gillett Methodist Women and the handbell

choir. She went on mission trips to Mexico and Africa.

On March 31, 2000, Melissa married Jason at Trapnall Hall in Little Rock. The wedding was televised live on KTHV Channel 11 after Melissa won a contest hosted by the network.

Melissa loved her daughters and was a devoted mother. From the time they were born, she taught them in Sunday School, hosted elaborate birthday parties, and scrapbooked every memory. She spent weekends, summers, and holidays taking them on educational trips and traveling to state parks and museums. Melissa taught them to read at an early age and shared her love for nature, gardening, and canning. She often showcased their work at the county fair.

Melissa cherished time spent with her sister in New England exploring and sightseeing, but mostly enjoying each other's company. She placed great importance on friendship and took her "pals" on many adventures including overnight trips to missile silos, yurts, caves, ranches, and unique locations. She was known to find a bargain and travel on a tight budget. She took advantage of every roadside attraction and small-town museum. Her friends and family are blessed to have countless memories along with the many photos and gifts she gave them. Her warm, welcoming nature and loving spirit will be sorely missed.

Melissa was devoted to her community and placed importance on documenting events for the local newspaper. She was a dedicated teacher at DeWitt High School and was awarded 2022 Literacy Leader of the Year for the

SEARK Reading Council. She was selected for her tenacity, perseverance, and most importantly for her love and passion for literacy and her scholars.

The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 2pm at Gillett Methodist Church with visitation beginning at 12:30pm. Memorials can be made to Bonner Chapel Cemetery, 1121 Rollison Drive, DeWitt, Arkansas, 72042.

Cemetery Details

Bonners Chapel Cemetery

Tichnor, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gillett Methodist Church
301 W Leslie Ave
Gillett, AR 72055
(870) 548-2574

Service

SEP 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Gillett Methodist Church
301 W Leslie Ave
Gillett, AR 72055
(870) 548-2574

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I have so many great memories of growing up with Melissa. She had a huge heart and always had a way to make you smile. Praying for peace and comfort for Jason and the girls and the rest of her family and friends

Jennifer James Manis

Jennifer James Manis - September 03, 2024 at 02:34 PM

JT

“ Jimbo and Tammy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.

Jimbo and Tammy - September 03, 2024 at 12:11 PM

LB

“ Love B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.

Love B. - September 03, 2024 at 11:08 AM

PD

“ Prentice And Sue Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham



Prentice and Sue Davis - September 03, 2024 at 08:52 AM

AC

“ All our love, Renee and Chris purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.



All our love, Renee and Chris - September 03, 2024 at 08:19 AM

AC

“ All our love, Renee and Chris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.

All our love, Renee and Chris - September 03, 2024 at 08:19 AM

CM

“ Chris M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.

Chris M. - September 03, 2024 at 08:17 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.



September 02, 2024 at 10:36 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.*



September 02, 2024 at 03:17 PM



“ *Connie C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.*

Connie C. - September 02, 2024 at 03:17 PM



“ *Bill Bohnert & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.*

Bill Bohnert & family - September 02, 2024 at 03:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.*



September 02, 2024 at 03:06 PM

MR

“ Mandy Branham Ryan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham



Mandy Branham Ryan - September 02, 2024 at 02:48 PM

CB

“ Carolyn B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.

Carolyn B. - September 02, 2024 at 02:37 PM

KR

“ Praying for all of the Family and Friends of Mrs. Grantham, She was a wonderful person to know, and a Great Educator to my children. She will never be forgotten for her kindness and generosity to others. Bless you all in this.



Kari Robertson - September 02, 2024 at 02:28 PM

JK

“ Jeff & Teresa Lehmann Kreis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.

Jeff & Teresa Lehmann Kreis - September 02, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.*



September 02, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *Brandy Mischel Pettit lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham*



Brandy Mischel Pettit - September 02, 2024 at 01:28 PM



“ *Rick And Cindy Hefley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham*



Rick and Cindy Hefley - September 02, 2024 at 01:16 PM



“ *Sending prayers to the family. So sorry for your loss!*



Kathrene Damron - September 02, 2024 at 12:54 PM

JJ

“ I'm sorry for your loss. Condolences and prayers to her family and friends. Beautiful soul. She will be missed.

Jackye Jacobs - September 02, 2024 at 12:48 PM

LC

“ Melissa was a kind soul and always made everyone feel included and welcome!! She was a huge part of my children's childhood and I know she will be missed by so many!!!! Sending love and prayers to the girls and Jason!! From "Cookie" and family.

Laura Cox - September 02, 2024 at 12:30 PM

LK

“ My pal will always have a special place in my heart. She had a gift for creating smiles and laughter to those around her. Her absence will be deeply felt and impossible to measure.



Leslie Sexton Kaiser - September 02, 2024 at 10:59 AM

JN

“ Sending our love and strength to you all.
Janielle and Chris Newland
Provincetown, MA



Janielle Newland - September 02, 2024 at 10:32 AM

RB

“ Robby Blessing lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham



Robby Blessing - September 02, 2024 at 01:33 AM

NW

“ Nancy Wallace-Keys lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham



Nancy Wallace-Keys - September 01, 2024 at 11:07 PM

EH

“ Ester Poston Hageman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham



Ester Poston Hageman - September 01, 2024 at 04:34 PM

CK

“ Chuck & Karen Knebel purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.



Chuck & Karen Knebel - September 01, 2024 at 04:13 PM

BF

“ *Berryman Family, Sweeny Farm planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham.*

Berryman Family, Sweeny Farm - September 01, 2024 at 12:48 PM

BW

“ *Bertha Woods lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Jane Rush Grantham*



Bertha woods - September 01, 2024 at 01:17 AM