



Wilma Jean Cornwell

October 6, 1926 - May 16, 2024

Wilma Jean Cracraft Cornwell passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 16th at the age of 97. She was a long-time member of the Fairview Methodist Church. Wilma Jean was a woman of strong faith who recently said she was, “ready and excited to go home”. In a conversation not long-ago she happily exclaimed, “Oh, I just get the shivers thinking about being with the Lord”. Wilma Jean always put her family first. In her younger years she tirelessly cared for her husband John Franklin Cornwell and her four sons John, Jim, Bob, and Tom. As her family grew, she lovingly welcomed her daughters-in-law Carol (John), Debby (Jim), and Wendy (Tom). She loved becoming a grandmother as her six grandchildren, Stephen, Leah, Jimmy, Brittany, Emily, and Holly arrived. In her later years, she could hardly believe the wonderful blessing of 11 great-grandchildren.

A life-long resident of Bloomington, growing up on First Street, Wilma Jean was the daughter of Vada and Bertha Cracraft. She had six siblings, Vassel, Russell, Mildred, Betty, Thelma, and Delores. After she and John married in 1947, they built a house on South Rogers Street where they started their family. In 1960 they purchased 23 acres west of Bloomington. They, with the help of their young sons, cleared the land and built a beautiful home on the top of a hill overlooking the countryside and neighboring farms. The house was surrounded by trees and flowers, vegetable gardens, and horse pastures. Wilma Jean took great pleasure in the home she had created for her family. Wilma Jean was high-energy. At only five feet, she was small in size, but large

in stature. She was a woman of vision with a get-the-job-done attitude. She never stopped. She worked constantly. She was a leader in her BHS Class of 1944, the ADO social sorority, and PTA. She was a successful, self-taught businesswoman acquiring rental property and starting the retail store Granny's Corner.

Much could be written about Wilma Jean. Much could be admired about her life. It is certain however, the things for which she would want to be most remembered are her strong faith in the Lord and how she loved her family above all else.

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Wilma Jean's family wishes to thank the staff of Cedar Creek Senior Living for the outstanding care provided over the last few months of Wilma Jean's life. The memorial service for Wilma Jean will be at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 on Friday, May 24th. Visitation begins at 12:00. The Memorial Service begins at 3:00, followed by the gravesite service at 4:00. All family and friends are invited to the repast at the Uptown café following the burial.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Clear Creek Cemetery

W Church Lane
Bloomington, IN 47403

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 24. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 24. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Tom and Jimmy we send our deepest Condolensces from everyone at Stansifer Radio Co. Dave & Ruthie, Greg and Marla

David Smith - May 30, 2024 at 09:39 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



May 23, 2024 at 10:53 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



May 23, 2024 at 09:45 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



May 22, 2024 at 08:15 PM

CC

“ Coleen & Patrick Costin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.

Coleen & Patrick Costin - May 22, 2024 at 01:32 PM

CC

“ Coleen & Patrick Costin purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



Coleen & Patrick Costin - May 22, 2024 at 01:32 PM

PC

“ Patrick C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.

Patrick C. - May 22, 2024 at 01:04 PM

PC

“ MeeMa was the 1 of the most extraordinary individual; that ever walked planet Earth!
Her love for life & her Family was never ending as well as her Faith in the Lord.
She made everyone better when they were a part of her life.

She will be missed everyday & Coleen will dedicate her garden this season to her memory.

Love Coleen & Patgrick Costin

Patrick Costin - May 22, 2024 at 01:01 PM

KR

“ Kelly R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.

Kelly R. - May 22, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



May 22, 2024 at 12:58 PM

VP

“ Vicki P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.

Vicki P. - May 22, 2024 at 08:30 AM

 Vicki Palmer

“ We loved Wilma and John. My husband, Bob Palmer, rented their garage apartment in 1971, when he worked for The Courier-Tribune. I so admired the way Wilma went about her busy, happy life! We also remember their Bassett Hound, Gomer, who became a playmate to Bob's Beagle, Maki. When Maki had Beagle puppies when we were in Ohio, John and Wilma happily adopted a couple of them. When we were starting demolition on our kitchen in Ohio, John and Wilma visited one Sunday and we all sat on construction buckets and ate leftovers stolen from Bob's mother. We have a barn full of wonderful memories, thanks to these two fantastic friends from our past..

Vicki Palmer - May 22, 2024 at 08:01 AM

SC

“ May 2023
Post on Social Media
by Stephen Cornwell

I just made a last-minute trip to Indiana to see my 96-year-old grandma, a remarkable woman and the source of entrepreneurial inspiration that's transcended several generations in my family.

Being raised in the 20s in the American Midwest, nothing came easy for her. Below is a photo of her grandparent's home. It's a potent reminder that I'm not entitled to anything, and only through generations of hard work can I enjoy modern conveniences.

My grandma took control of her family's financial destiny by starting several small businesses. She grew and sold produce from her farm, started a used furniture shop, and invested in rental properties. These ventures enabled her family (husband four little boys!) to buy a good home and live good lives.

Reflecting on what made her ventures successful, a few things stood out even as an onlooking kid:

She loved people: My grandma's heart for people, especially the poor and sick, is massive. I believe her passion for entrepreneurship was rooted in her love for people.

She solved human problems: She didn't build cutting-edge tech or change business paradigms, but she did offer products and services that solved real human-level issues that people paid for - i.e., food, housing, and furniture.

She was a deal maker: Standing at 5 ft with heels on, she's no intimidating giant, but she could give a masterclass on deal-making. She knew how to stick up for herself, was confident in the value she provided, and got deals done that resulted in good value for all parties.

She embraced hard work: To be blunt, Grandma would be confused by society's hyper-sensitivity around "work-life balance." She didn't view work vs. life. To her, work was an integral part of living a life of significance. She worked tirelessly for her marriage, kids, church, and community.

Entrepreneurs can spend years reading books about modern startup strategies and management practices, but my grandma's approach is an excellent reminder that it can be much more straightforward: love people, solve human problems, make fair deals, and embrace hard work.

This trip was massively memorable. I'm unsure if I'll see my grandma on this side of Heaven again, but cheers to her and her incredible generation, who set many of the foundations of entrepreneurship in America.



Stephen Cornwell - May 21, 2024 at 09:54 PM

MA

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Cornwell Family. Wilma Jean was a fiery little gal that kept us all in line as kids growing up! She was always kind and smiling as we crossed path thru the years. I remember her telling me how proud she was of her boys. Mike, Randy, and Lana Allen*

michael allen - May 21, 2024 at 07:42 AM

SD

“ Sue and Jeff Dangelmajer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.

Sue and Jeff Dangelmajer - May 20, 2024 at 05:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



May 20, 2024 at 05:11 PM

KS

“ Karen&Wayne Schonland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.

Karen&Wayne Schonland - May 20, 2024 at 11:47 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.



May 20, 2024 at 11:47 AM

ML

“ *What a beautiful tribute to an incredible woman. The world needs more Wilma Jean's! I wish I had been able to meet her in person, but I certainly feel like my life has been impacted by her through her family!*

Michael Leahy - May 20, 2024 at 10:25 AM

DH

“ *Condolences to all the family. Debby an Richard Holmes*

Debby Holmes - May 19, 2024 at 09:27 AM

JR

“ *Sorry for your loss Tom. Jim Reynolds*

James Reynolds - May 19, 2024 at 06:20 AM

DC

“ *Dolly Gornall, Mike & Linda Cracraft planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilma Jean Cornwell.*

Dolly Gornall, Mike & Linda Cracraft - May 18, 2024 at 03:47 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Wilma Jean Cornwell.*



May 18, 2024 at 03:47 PM

LB

“ *I didn't know Wilma but bobby spoke highly of her..and I can see why..so sorry for your loss ..condolences linda ball*

Linda Ball - May 18, 2024 at 02:24 PM