



Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett

October 30, 1924 - March 31, 2020

Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett, of Louisiana, passed away from natural causes on March 31, 2020 at the age of 95.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Fred and Leonora Berry, her brother Fred Berry, Jr., her husbands, William R. Cunningham and Robert Catlett, and her daughters Sheila Benton and Cynthia Coil.

Grace Jane is survived by her sister, Phyllis Payne, her sons, William Cunningham, Jr. (Mary), Jon Cunningham (Sally), David Cunningham (Kimberly), and Steven Cunningham (Cindy), ten grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Grace Jane graduated from Louisiana High School where she was an excellent student, drummer in the school band, and an acclaimed vocal soloist. After high school, she served her country as a civilian during World War II, joining the "Government Girls" program, working in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

During this time, she performed work related to the "Manhattan Project". After the war, Grace Jane attended the University of Missouri-Columbia. She married William Cunningham and together they raised their six children in Louisiana. William was a high school teacher and coach for over 30 years. Grace Jane was a homemaker until Steven reached kindergarten age. She completed college extension courses which allowed her to earn a teacher's assistant certificate and had a career of teaching children to read in the Louisiana School District for almost 20 years.

William passed away in 1989. Three years later, Grace Jane became reacquainted with former classmate Robert Catlett at their High School reunion. They married in 1993. They lived happily together until Robert's death in 2002. Grace Jane developed a loving relationship with Robert's children Paul, Caroline, Erin, Susan, and Kathleen as well as Robert's grandchildren.

In Grace Jane's later years, she became a published poet, a talented artist, avid golfer, and a civic leader. She was a member of Rotary Club, the Louisiana Housing Authority, PEO, Friends of the Library, Red Hat Society, and worked at the Louisiana Historical Society. She was a life-long member of the Centenary Methodist Church.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there will be a private service for family only at this time with a celebration of life memorial to follow at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

N. B Street
Louisiana, MO

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett

November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett

November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ I shed tears of both sorrow and joy as I relive fond memories of roaming atop Vandeventer Hill. Spending many days, and nights, there as a youth remain some of the most magical moments in my life. Your mother was a big part of that. Your mom was the epitome of both a mother and a teacher. I will always remember her as one of the most compassionate and Graceful people in my life. If I couldn't have my mom, I would want yours. My thoughts and prayers for the Cunningham/Catlett family.

Judd Martin

Judson Martin - April 07, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ I know Grace Jane is missed by her family and friends ❤️ She and my mom shared a beautiful friendship in their later years. My sympathy to all her wonderful family ❤️

Pat Littrell Biggerstaff

Pat Littrell Biggerstaff - April 06, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ *Sending heartfelt sympathy and prayers of comfort. You mom was such a special soul and the sweetest!!*
Denny and Melody DeWeese

Melody DeWeese - April 06, 2020 at 12:09 AM



“ *Margaret Dunn lit a candle in memory of Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett*



Margaret Dunn - April 04, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ *Deepest condolences to all who will miss Grace Jane, and prayers for comfort as you remember that she indeed, was a “Grace” to all. The Cunningham family played so many roles in the community throughout the years and I suspect there are not many who missed being blessed to know them.*



Diana Fuld - April 02, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ *Sending Heartfelt Sympathy to Steve, Cindy and Family*❤️



Donna & Wally Reich - April 02, 2020 at 08:12 PM

RS

“ *Your mother was a wonderful lady and a great inspiration to many. She always had a warm smile on her face. She will be missed!* ”

Ronnie and Terri Sperry - April 02, 2020 at 05:40 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett.* ”



April 02, 2020 at 04:36 PM

DD

“ *Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with each of of you. Grace Jane was a wonderful and kind lady and friend. May she rest in peace. May the Lord comfort each of you...God bless you all!* ”



Delores Davis - April 02, 2020 at 04:33 PM

MT

“ *We are sending prayers and condolences for the family of Grace Jane. She really was a special lady. Clay and Marilyn Taliaferro* ”

Marilyn Taliaferro - April 02, 2020 at 03:34 PM

CO

“ *Cindy Poyser Osborne lit a candle in memory of Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett*



Cindy Poyser Osborne - April 02, 2020 at 02:09 PM

MJ

“ *Grace Jane was an inspiration. She was such a well-rounded person with many interests and talents. She accomplished much. I feel privileged to have known her even just a few years.*
Margie Jamieson

Margie Jamieson - April 02, 2020 at 11:03 AM

BG

“ *I want to extend my sympathy to the family of Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett. I really just got to know Grace Jane through our relative, George Holliday and his wife, Edna. My sister, Marjorie McNutt, always spoke highly of her friend and co-worker, Grace Jane. I know our Lord will see each of you through this loss. Hold on to the memories and know that she has gone to a better place. God Bless. Bess Gamm*

Bess Gamm - April 01, 2020 at 11:13 PM

MD

“ I was privileged to get to be a coworker with Grace in the Louisiana Public School System. Grace was the epitome of grace and kindness, so indeed, her name was fitting. She was loved by her coworkers and the children of the school. When Coach Cunningham passed I remember Grace wearing a lovely pink suit to the funeral services, held in the high school auditorium, her head was held high and she was holding the hand of one of her granddaughters, the name Sarah is what comes to mind, but not sure. She exuded, in that moment, to me, a woman of faith...something we would all do well to emulate. I hadn't seen her for years, but on facebook I saw that her smile never wavered...she will leave a definite impression on friends and family for all of us who continue in this world. My deepest condolences to the family at the loss of this lovely woman.

mary douglas - April 01, 2020 at 05:01 PM

JD

As a teacher in the Louisiana Elementary School, it was a privilege to work along side Grace Jane. When my students came back from their lesson with her, they came in smiling. She and Mrs. Haley made their classroom a place of learning to love reading. Most of us from those years are now retired, but our memory of Grace Jane will never fade. My sympathy to her wonderful family.

Judy Davenport - April 02, 2020 at 12:43 PM

JD

*JD
Judy Davenport
2 days ago
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Judy Davenport - April 04, 2020 at 10:37 AM

TC

“ *The Judges of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett.*



The Judges of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit - April 01, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Grace Jane Cunningham Catlett.*



April 01, 2020 at 03:06 PM

SC

“ *My sisters, brother, niece, and nephew have such fond memories of Grace Jane. Thank you so much for acknowledging us in the beautiful obituary.*

Love, Susan, Erin, Kathleen, Caroline, Paul, Jen, and Austin

Susan Catlett - April 01, 2020 at 02:50 PM

LW

“ *I want to extend my sympathy to the Cunningham family. Miss Grace Jane was appropriately named Grace as she lived her life filled with grace and kindness. She leaves a family and a community to miss her presence. May she rest in eternal peace.*

Lisa Watts

Lisa Watts - April 01, 2020 at 02:21 PM

CL

“ We send our love and sympathy to all the family. Grace Jane epitomizes the character and qualities of the "Greatest Generation" and has left a lasting legacy for a large community. May she rest in peace.

Carl and Jane Littrell

Carl Littrell - April 01, 2020 at 01:03 PM

RL

“ Sending our love and sympathy to all the family. Grace Jane always wore a smile and had kind words for everyone she met. May your memories provide you with comfort during this difficult time and may her soul rest in eternal peace.

*Much love to all,
Robert and Mary Lou Littrell*

Robert and Mary Lou Littrell - April 01, 2020 at 11:38 AM

DC

“ I want to extend my sympathy to family and friends of Grace Jane. She was a special person who fit in several locations over the years. We will miss her very much after being a good participant in many groups over the years.

D. Randall Cone, Louisiana, MO

D. Randall Cone - April 01, 2020 at 10:38 AM

DG

When Bill first came to the Louisiana school system, he and Grace Jane rented a small house from my father in Stark Addition. Their children were welcome playmates in the neighborhood. Grace Jane made all us feel like her own. Her smile, love of life, and friendship will always be remembered. Heaven is an even better place with her arrival. Dennis Goodman

Dennis Goodman - April 02, 2020 at 10:41 AM

DC

My heartfelt sympathy to the family of Grace Jane. Loved talking to her at Red Hats. She so reminds me of the genteel. elegant ladies of the south. She will be missed for sure. Heaven is a happier place with her there. God Bless. Dianne Collins

Dianne Collins - April 02, 2020 at 11:55 AM

JB

I will miss the Quincy Symphony concerts that Grace Jane attended with me as I played horn in the orchestra. And she enjoyed the private receptions afterwards that I could arrange. Most of all, I wish I had her clothing style - she always looked professional.

Joanna Brock - April 02, 2020 at 06:03 PM

GB

Chick always spoke fondly of your mother and your father. I did not have the privilege of knowing your parents. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you during your loss. I know God will be with you during this time as HE is always.

Gail Branstetter - April 03, 2020 at 10:00 AM