



Marcia Louise Shepard

June 7, 1941 - June 1, 2026

Marcia Louise Shepard, beloved mother, grandmother, educator, volunteer, and faithful servant of Christ, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 1, 2026, just six days shy of her 85th birthday. She was 84 years old.

Marcia was born on June 7, 1941, in Wichita, Kansas, to Paul and Beulah Blankenship. She grew up in Belle Plaine, Kansas, where she attended school and became known for her active involvement in school activities, her quick wit, and a touch of sass that would remain part of her charm throughout her life.

In March of 1955, Marcia accepted Christ, beginning a lifelong journey of faith and service. One of her favorite childhood stories was from sixth grade, when she was cast as an angel in a school play. From that day forward, she often joked that she had been an angel since childhood—a comment shared with a smile and remembered fondly by all who heard the story.

Marcia attended York College in York, Nebraska, and later earned her Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in Social Studies from Oklahoma Christian College. During her college years, she served as a camp counselor at Silver Maple Bible Camp in Kingman, Kansas, where her love for children, faith, and service continued to grow.

In September of 1968, at the encouragement of her neighbor, Marcia agreed

to a blind date with a young man named Bill Shepard. What began as a simple introduction quickly blossomed into a lasting love story. By June 7th of 1969 (her birthday), Bill and Marcia were married and began building a life together.

The newlyweds settled in Wellsville, Kansas, where they welcomed their daughter, Kristine "Kris," in September of 1971. The family later returned to Belle Plaine, Kansas, where their son, Bradley "Brad," was born in July of 1978. In February of 1979, the family moved to Buffalo, Missouri, where Marcia would spend the next several decades investing deeply in her family, church, schools, and community.

While raising her children in Buffalo, Marcia worked as a substitute teacher and served alongside Dee Hamilton as a Camp Fire Director. She was actively involved in the Buffalo Church of Christ, where she taught Sunday School, led Vacation Bible School, and encouraged countless young people in their faith.

In 1986, Marcia was chosen by Mrs. Genelle Spoering, the principal of Mallory Elementary, to pilot and lead the first Parents-as-Teachers program for the Dallas County School District. Together with Linda Brown and Sarah Oglesbee, they faithfully served many families throughout the county. Her work touched generations of children and parents and helped establish a foundation of support and education that continues to benefit families today. She retired in 2006 after twenty years of dedicated service.

Retirement offered Marcia and Bill opportunities to explore the world together. They shared memorable travels to Alaska, Gatlinburg, Washington, D.C., New York City, and Pensacola, Florida. Marcia also enjoyed special trips with family and friends to Ireland, Arizona, and Michigan, creating treasured memories along the way. Most recently, Marcia could be found playing "Pitch" every Friday night with her dear friends the Oglesbees, Sandersons, Duffs, and Browns.

Marcia's commitment to serving others never slowed. She was a tireless volunteer whose kindness and dedication earned recognition from Horses of Hope, Toys for Tots, The Haven, working the election polls in her local precinct, The Reading Buddies Program, and Dallas County Schools for her work as a kindergarten screener.

Marcia was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Beulah Blankenship, her brother, Jim Blankenship; and her beloved husband of 44 years, Bill Shepard.

She is survived by her daughter, Kris and husband Christopher of Walnut Grove, Missouri; grandson Zach and his girlfriend, Courtlyn; her son, Brad and wife Amy of Nixa, Missouri; and grandsons Gracen, Kadyne, Braylen, and Landry. She also leaves behind her sister-in-laws, Carolyn Tomboli, Alice Erwin, Cindy Shepard and Jerry Shepard as well as many cherished cousins, nephews, nieces, and numerous dear friends whose lives were enriched by her love and friendship.

Visitation will be held at Cantlon Otterness & Viets Funeral Home on Friday, June 5th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with services being held on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. with burial at Memorial Gardens following the service. Marcia requested in lieu of flowers that donations be made to The Children's Miracle Network at cmn.org.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home, Buffalo.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Gardens of Memory

1510 N. Ash Street
Buffalo, MO 65622

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo
931 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 993
Buffalo, MO 65622
(417) 345-2211
info@cantlonotterness.com
<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

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931 W. Main St.
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info@cantlonotterness.com
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Tribute Wall

LI

“ Kris, Chris and family Rick and I send our condolences so sorry for your loss. In reading Marcia obituary shows she was a very special lady to her family and community she will be dearly missed but, what beautiful memories she has left to all! You're in our thoughts and prayers. Rick & LaDonna Irwin

LaDonna Irwin - June 07 at 03:02 PM

RJ

“ Marcia was such a kind lady with a fun spirit. I called her "Rooster Booster" whenever I seen her. She was my Bible school teacher & that was a song we sang. Still sticks with me all these years. So sorry for your loss, you had one of the best.

Renee Jones - June 07 at 12:33 PM

SF

“ Sharron Blankenship Willey & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Marcia Louise Shepard.



Sharron Blankenship Willey & Family - June 05 at 11:33 AM

SF

“ Sharron Blankenship Willey & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marcia Louise Shepard.

Sharron Blankenship Willey & Family - June 05 at 11:33 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marcia Louise Shepard.



June 04 at 03:31 PM



“ So sorry for your loss, prayers for the family
Harriet & Weldon Vest

Harriet Lucille Vest - June 04 at 09:00 AM



“ Lloyd & Cindy Blankenship purchased the Forever Beloved for the family of Marcia Louise Shepard.



Lloyd & Cindy Blankenship - June 04 at 08:48 AM



“ Lloyd & Cindy Blankenship planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marcia Louise Shepard.

Lloyd & Cindy Blankenship - June 04 at 08:48 AM

LJ

“ *Linda Jones lit a candle in memory of Marcia Louise Shepard*



Linda Jones - June 03 at 04:20 PM

AF

“ *Alan and Dee Ann Blankenship & family. purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Marcia Louise Shepard.*



Alan and Dee Ann Blankenship & family. - June 02 at 09:32 PM

AF

“ *Alan and Dee Ann Blankenship & family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marcia Louise Shepard.*

Alan and Dee Ann Blankenship & family. - June 02 at 09:32 PM