



## Mrs. Viola Mae Miller

October 28, 1929 - September 21, 2019

Viola Mae Ragsdale Miller was born October 28, 1929 and departed from this life on September 21, 2019.

She was the oldest child of Willard and Vircy McDaniel Ragsdale. Viola graduated from Charity High School in 1947 and Missouri State Teachers College (now Missouri State University) in 1953. Viola had a passion for teaching. She taught at Kelly, Charity, and Buffalo Elementary schools for 42 years, retiring in 2000 at 70 years old.

Viola was married to Pruitt Miller on May 14, 1950. They were married for 62 years and blessed with two children: Curtis Lynn and Marilyn Ann.

Viola began her teaching career at Kelly School where she boarded with a local farm family. She had many humorous memories of her time as one of the last one-room schoolteachers in Missouri where her duties included educating first through 8th grade students, sweeping the floor, and stoking the furnace fire. Viola remained in touch with many of her former students. One mark of her impact as a teacher is how many of her former students remained in contact with her.

Viola cherished her family and embraced her roles as mother, grandmother, and educator.

Viola supported many charities and organizations, including the American Lung Association, the Drury gifted education program, the Missouri State Teachers Association, and the Community Teachers Association. Viola and Pruitt were a familiar sight at many board meetings and conventions, including

the beekeeping association, where her famous good luck often resulted in winning the door prize.

She was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church of Buffalo where she was active in the children's ministry. She gave of her time and money to many worthy causes.

Viola was preceded in death by her husband Pruitt; her parents, Willard and Vircy McDaniel Ragsdale; one sister, Erma Jean Brashers; two brothers, Willard Ragsdale, Jr., and Donald Lee Ragsdale; and one daughter-in-law, Susan Miller. She is survived by her children, Curtis Miller and Suzy Willis of Leawood, KS, Marilyn Miller Walker and her husband Michael of Mtn. Grove, MO; her grandchildren, Sarah Wainwright and her husband Chris of Lee's Summit, MO, Lindsay Miller of Des Moines, IA, and Audrey Walker of Minneapolis, MN; and one great-grandchild, Ella Madison Wainwright. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Mission Chapel Cemetery Fund.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 27, 2019 at the Cantlon Otterness & Viets Funeral Home with Rev. Michael Walker officiating. Interment will be in the Mission Chapel Cemetery under the care and direction of the Cantlon Otterness & Viets Funeral Home of Buffalo. Visitation will be from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Friday at the Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Mission Chapel Cemetery

120 St. Hwy 38  
Elkland, MO 65644

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **27**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (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>

## Service

SEP **27**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 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>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Viola Mae Miller*

October 09, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *Mrs. Viola Mae Miller*

October 09, 2023 at 04:09 AM



“ *Mrs. Viola Mae Miller*

October 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM



“ *Mrs. Viola Mae Miller*

October 05, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ *Mrs. Viola Mae Miller*

December 20, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Viola Mae Miller.*



September 27, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Viola Mae Miller.*



---

September 25, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ *My beautiful cousin!! I got to see your beautiful smile...hear your soft gentle laughter..your beautiful eyes that always was present..listening..my memories as a young girl..as my family always came to visit the family on the farm. You always came out for a visit..not only were you stately beautiful to me..your presence was like that of majesty..sincerely..As the years passed..seeing you during my visits as an adult..YOU..never changed..your heart was always like open arms..a special heart..you possess..I can understand..how you touched so many lives thru the years...making an impact..no doubt you never really realized..You will be missed..yet what a honorable life you lived...a real representative of God's amazing love...until we meet again..I will miss you..& remember..your love..kindness & gentle spirit!! Prayers of comfort for your beautiful children & grandchildren..and family & amazing friends!!*

---

**Paula McDaniel** - September 25, 2019 at 09:06 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Viola Mae Miller.*



---

September 25, 2019 at 01:10 PM

BD

“ We were blessed to have Mrs. Miller for my daughter’s kindergarten teacher. I remember how calming she was. She got to touch so many children’s lives that will always remember what a wonderful teacher they were lucky enough to have. She will be missed.

---

**Becky Davies** - September 24, 2019 at 12:10 AM

NG

“ Viola was a very gracious lady and even though our son was not in her room, I understood she was a wonderful teacher. I am sure her students will have many fond memories of her.

*Our condolences and prayers for all the family.*

*Nina and Bob Griffith*

---

**Nina Griffith** - September 23, 2019 at 09:22 PM

DA

“ My three children were very fortunate to have Mrs. Miller for their teacher. She was a teacher well respected among her peers. Thank you Mrs. Miller for your dedication. Dean Anderson

---

**Dean Anderson** - September 23, 2019 at 04:01 PM

VP

“ Sweet viola was a best friend and taught with my mother. Willa. Garrett. My mom passed in. 1973. An. Viola. Was with me the whole time !! Also. In. Jan 1973. Viola served at my wedding. If you send me address I will send you pictures !! Vicki Garrett. Petree.

---

**vicki garrett. petree** - September 23, 2019 at 10:25 AM

Shellie Means

“ I never had her as a teacher. But I know she was a very sweet lady. And she will be missed.



Shellie Means - September 22, 2019 at 11:42 PM

BD

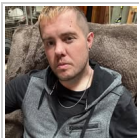
“ Mrs. Miller was such a nice lady. She wasn't my kindergarten teacher but she would always buy stuff from me when I was doing a fundraiser. She was such a nice lady, she helped a lot of kids.

Brandan Davies - September 22, 2019 at 11:32 PM

GS

“ Mrs. Viola was my 3rd and 4th grade teacher. She was an excellent teacher and always concerned about her students. In later years, when I would see them, she and Pruitt always had time to chat and catch up with how life was treating me and mine. Condolences and prayers for the family in this time of loss!

George W Snodgrass - September 22, 2019 at 10:36 PM



“ Brett Shoemake lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viola Mae Miller



Brett Shoemake - September 22, 2019 at 09:46 PM

GC

“ *Such good memories of Mrs. Miller. Wonderful lady. My sympathy to Curtis & Marilyn.*

*Gina (Wimberly) Cook*

---

**Gina Cook** - September 22, 2019 at 09:31 PM

SK

“ *Pruitt and Viola were very special to me. I did not get to visit with them as often as I would have liked. I appreciated all the work they put into the history of Charity school reunions. Viola's sister Ermajean was one of my aunts. Please accept my condolences in her passing.*

*Sheriann Brashers Kessinger.*

---

**Sheriann Brashers Kessinger** - September 22, 2019 at 08:56 PM

JO

“ *Mrs. Miller's kindergarten class was the beginning of my lifetime love of learning. She touched so many lives. She will be missed.*



---

**Jami Ortner-Holdt** - September 22, 2019 at 05:20 PM

CM

“ *Cory (Owens) Mincey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viola Mae Miller*



---

**Cory (Owens) Mincey** - September 22, 2019 at 04:59 PM