



## Eula Mae Cooper

June 8, 1919 - July 10, 2016

Eula Mae Gilbreath Radford Cooper passed away July 10, 2016 at her apartment in St. Luke's Nursing Center at the age of 97. She was born June 8, 1919, to Fannie Madge Hall and Bruce Emerson Gilbreath, west of Avilla, Mo. She attended the Sunflower Country School. Later she moved to Joplin and graduated from the Joplin Memorial High School in 1938. Eula Mae worked at Kress Dime Store, in the office of Ramsey's Dry Goods Store, Bank of Carthage, all located in Carthage, then Hercules Powder Company office in Joplin, Mo, and for Civil Defense in Des Moines, Iowa. She married Alvin Webster Radford on November 3, 1946. For 33 years they lived on their farm southeast of Jasper, Mo. before retiring to Heritage Acres of Joplin. While in Jasper she was president of the Jasper School PTA and the District PTA. She joined the Peerless Chapter #75 Order of the Eastern Star serving as Worthy Matron in 1952 and as District Deputy Grand Matron of the 44th District in 1956, being a member for 69 years. Eula Mae was a community leader of Clover 4-H Club in Jasper, joined the Social Order of Beaucants in Carthage, was a member of the Jasper United Methodist Church, and a member of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce. She also worked as assistant secretary for Jasper County Farm Bureau, serving as county chairman of the Women's Committee and also District Chairman. In addition, she volunteered for the American Red Cross and Bloodmobile serving on the Red Cross board for many years. She helped to organize an ambulance service in Jasper – serving as secretary, passed the college training course, and volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician on the ambulance for 4 years. As a member of the Jasper Methodist Church Eula Mae and Alvin taught a Sunday School class and she sang in the church choir, and raised funds for missions. In Carthage she continued her work for UMC missions that she began at 12 years old. Eula Mae, known as the "Teddy Bear Lady," loved to share her bears with everyone, especially the kids who loved them, too. She will be remembered by many for all the greeting cards and newspaper clippings that she sent. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alvin, her first husband, Joe Cooper, her 2nd husband, two sisters—Ollene Alexander and Pauline Murray, and brother Carroll Gilbreath. She is survived by a daughter, Marsha Schilb and husband, Larry, of Overland Park, KS, her granddaughter, Jennifer Schilb of Dallas, Texas, and a brother Rev. Byron Gilbreath of Raymore, Mo. Services will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday July 15, 2016 at the

First United Methodist Church of Carthage. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. July 14, 2016 at Ulmer Funeral Home. Burial will be at Paradise Cemetery at I-49 & Friday July 15, 2016 immediately after the service. Contributions are requested for the Carthage United Methodist Church in lieu of flowers in care of Ulmer Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at [www.ulmerfh.com](http://www.ulmerfh.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Ulmer Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Ramona (Taunton) Bullington lit a candle in memory of Eula Mae Cooper*



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**Ramona (Taunton) Bullington** - September 26, 2017 at 04:20 PM

RB

“ *Eula Mae was one of my Mom's (Frances (Wormington) Taunton) best friends. They met while both were working at Kress Dime Store in Carthage, MO in the 1930's. Eula Mae never missed sending cards for birthdays and Christmas. My sister, Janis, and I are so sorry that we were unaware of her passing until now. We will always remember Eula Mae for her friendship with Mom and the kindness she showed to us.*

*Ramona (Taunton) Bullington*

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**Ramona (Taunton) Bullington** - September 26, 2017 at 04:19 PM

VL

“ *Our Sincere Sympathy in the loss of your dear Mother. She blessed so many lives and I will never send another birthday card without thinking of Eula Mae and her dedication to keeping in touch. We are so sorry that previous commitments did not allow us to attend the service. Best Regards, Verl and Jeanie*

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**Verl & Jeanie Leonard** - July 15, 2016 at 02:21 PM

VD

“ *Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Eula Mae. We could always count on a card from her for our birthdays and our anniversary! Alvin Radford was my cousin. My maiden name was Virginia Radford from Alba. In sympathy, Virginia and daughter Donna*

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**Virginia Gray and Donna David** - July 14, 2016 at 04:19 PM

KP

“ *Eula Mae was one of the kindest and most sincere person I have had the pleasure of knowing. She married my uncle, Joe Cooper, and the two of them were a perfect match. Now she is with so many friends and family again. She and I went to lunch and visited together quite a few times and we had so much fun. She was a wonderful blessing to so many. I will miss her but I know she is writing her messages to all the angels in heaven. Bless you, Eula Mae. Thanks for the memories. .... Karen Pattison*

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**Karen Pattison** - July 12, 2016 at 03:34 PM

DV

“ *It is true she would mail out clippings from the new papers. Not really knowing us, we could always count on a clipping, about our kids activities in school, from her. She was a blessing to many.*

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**Dixie Vacca** - July 12, 2016 at 09:02 AM

LG

“ *Eula Mae was such an inspiration to both of us. Always positive and always a smile and a hug. Her presence will truly be missed in our Wesley Annas Circle. God bless her family and may He give them comfort.*

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**Larry and Virginia Gray** - July 11, 2016 at 01:09 PM