



Jewell Leann Cole

June 18, 1949 - October 22, 2024

Jewell Leann Cole, 75, affectionately called Leann, of Carthage, Missouri, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, in the presence of her three sons, her parents, and loved ones.

Leann was born June 18, 1949, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Melvin and Wilma (Wood) Walbridge. Leann graduated from Carthage High School in 1967, commemorating the final class to hold their graduation ceremony within the high school. It was moved the next year to the football field where it's been held ever since.

Leann married Mike Klinge after graduation and gave birth to their first son, Shawn, in 1968. They welcomed their second son, Shad, in 1972. Leann was a homemaker at this time, and they made many trips to Grand Lake for boating and many other fun adventures. Their travel also included jet boat racing to Oklahoma.

Leann married Byron Keepper on April 5, 1980, and had her last son, James, on April 22, 1982. Leann and Byron successfully owned and operated Keepper Office Supply and Print Shop from 1989 until 1999. While they started the business in a small basement shop, they moved after 4 years, tripling the space and adding a tuxedo rental to the business.

Leann spent her last 28 years with Robert "Chuck" Cole; the last 18 of them as his wife. They were married in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and made many trips to the Ozark area where the men would go golfing, and the women would go shopping. He preceded her in death November 24, 2020.

Leann was locally famous for her delicious homemade cooking and her skills were in high demand for many years. She owned a Tea Room for several years then shared her talents with The Kendrick House and the Sassy Spoon. Leann was tasked with providing the hors d'oeuvres reception for Midwest Gathering of the Artists for several years, something she was very proud to be a part of. During this time frame she also worked with the Chamber of Commerce.

She took over as head chef at the Stone's Throw Dinner Theatre in 2012 and spent the remainder of her cooking career planning menus, ordering food and cooking for the tens of thousands of people who would come to Carthage for dinner and a show. She was bestowed the honor of having a Lifetime Membership in 2020. Leann loved the theatre with a passion and cherished her time there. The love and admiration she had for the actors, staff, and volunteers was evident to everyone who knew her as she spoke of them regularly.

Leann is survived by her parents, Mel and Wilma Walbridge; brother, Larry (Angela) Walbridge; son, Shawn (Donna) Klinge, son, Shad Klinge, son, James (Misti) Keepper, step-daughter, Lisa (Kip) Stiles, grandchildren, Linsey, Brianna, Sydney (Ethan), Salim, Charlee, Brenden (McKynze), Jazzy, Kaylee, Rilee, Tess, Claire, and six great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great nephews.

A memorial visitation for Leann will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Ulmer Funeral Home, 1208 S. Garrison Avenue, Carthage, Missouri, with a private interment to follow.

Condolences may be made at www.ulmerfh.com.

Contributions may be made to Stone's Throw Dinner Theater in care of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT **26**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2222
ulmerfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ulmerfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Leann and I were friends since 1970, our older sons played together until my husband re-enlisted in the Army. At that time, I was expecting my youngest son and we were moved to Texas. Leann organized a baby shower by mail for me and to my surprise one day I received a big box in the mail full of baby gifts from my friends and family at home! I was so surprised and touched! In our later years when we would visit, her conversations centered on her grandchildren and how much she loved them! The world was a better place because of our dear Leann!* ”

Sue Stark - October 27, 2024 at 07:49 PM

TR

“ *I remember her laughter she had this way in this laugh that could just a light up a room when she walks in she'd say okay folks I'm here she was a wonderful person she'd give the shirt off her back to anybody and she always hated fighting she just wave her hands hell well LOL you were fun to be around cousin and how close her and her brother were they had a great Bond and good Christians* ”

Tina would Raney - October 27, 2024 at 10:43 AM

MH

“ *Mel, Wilma, Larry, Shawn, Shad and family, J.D. and I are so very sorry. So many memories growing up with Leann and they are treasured. Will forever remember her sweet smile and contagious laughter. May your memories bring you comfort and peace. In love, JD and Marion(Dilley) House.* ”

marion house - October 25, 2024 at 06:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ulmer Funeral Home - October 25, 2024 at 03:32 PM



I so remember all the family reunions and her and her brother being there and how funny they were and joking all the time and they're kindness I can miss you again thank you so much for the gift that you gave me for my mom Aunt Mary to me Michelle that mom made Aunt Mary when I got that it was right at Christmas and I remember was the best Christmas present I ever had I love you and you will be missed rest in peace rest in peace cousin 🙏🙏🙏.

Tina Wood - October 25, 2024 at 10:56 PM



You were always a wonderful person

Tina Wood - October 25, 2024 at 10:57 PM



This is how I remember you land any little thing at the family reunion she always was fun I miss you and thank you thank you so much for Aunt Mary's Shaw that Mama made 🙏

Tina would Raney - October 27, 2024 at 10:45 AM



“ Sorry for your loss. 🙏

Rosella Rayner - October 24, 2024 at 08:13 PM