



Susan Jane Wheeler

September 25, 1950 - December 13, 2014

Susan Jane Wheeler, 64, passed away on December 13, 2014 at her home in Miami . She was born in Great Bend, Kansas in 1950 to Marie (Murphy) Wheeler and Raymond H. Wheeler and moved with her family to the Murphy family farm near Twin Bridges, Oklahoma when she was 6.

Her father passed away in 1964 and her mother in 1992. Susan resided with her aunt Hazel Murphy and uncle Jay Murphy until their passing. Her aunt Ruby Murphy and her aunt Sallie Murphy, who operated Sallie's Beauty Nook on the south side of the Coleman theater building in Miami, were similarly important in her life. In 2004, Susan became a resident at the Elmwood group home in Miami, managed by the Home of Hope, and worked at Hope Industries in Vinita. She is survived by her brother and guardian, James R. Wheeler, of Joplin, MO, his wife and co-guardian, Mollie M. Wheeler, and three nephews, Kevin and Glenn Wheeler of Joplin, and Michael Wheeler of Hampton Roads, Virginia.

Thanks to the Home of Hope, Susan thrived in her environment at Elmwood, enjoying activities like Special Olympics, parties, the zoo, plays in Tulsa, and movies. She was proud of her paychecks from Hope Industries and that she was helping to earn her way. Susan was a loving person who never had a bad thought about anyone. She was able to attend a special education curriculum in the Miami, OK school system through the 12th grade. She could read and

write well and one of her greatest pleasures was learning about celebrities and historical figures. She had an excellent memory not only for those details but for the names of everyone around her and even of their children. She was a people person, forever young.

Two people who played a very important part in Susan's life were Phyllis and Troy Essex who knew her aunt Hazel through fellowship at First Christian Church of Miami. The Essex's charitably and lovingly took Susan to church, to the library, and helped her with shopping and personal care. No one could have been more attentive, even had they been godparents.

Susan's health declined abruptly in November and she was subsequently diagnosed with cancer. The family is grateful to the congregation of the First Christian Church of Miami who made Susan at home in the church family. The family is grateful to Legacy Hospice of Vinita for easing pain and difficulties and especially to the Home of Hope's staff at Elmwood for their professional and loving care over the past ten years and through the final stressful days.

Cemetery Details

Grand Army of the Republic

2801 North Main Street
Miami, OK 74354

Previous Events

Funeral

DEC 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church Chapel of Miami
2424 North Main
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-9816
<http://www.fccmiamiok.com>

Tribute Wall

KG

“ so sorry to hear about Susan I went to school with her she was in my class in special Education. When I left school I lost contact with most of the kids. Never knew where most of them were. Didn't know her aunt's so had no way to find her or them. She was a very sweet person and had a boyfriend she went with in school named larry tuck. Will always remember her.



kathy gerock - December 16, 2014 at 02:32 PM

MK

“ Susan loved to sing! I would often look over during church and see her intently following the hymnal and singing joyfully. She loved to tell us about her Special Olympics victories. She had such a zest for life! Marcia and Larry Kruse

Marcia and Larry Kruse - December 15, 2014 at 12:01 PM