



Lorena I. Gray

January 1, 1944 - October 19, 2024

Lorena I. Gray, age 80 of Old Ripley, IL, died Saturday, October 19, 2024.

She was born on Saturday, January 1, 1944, in Dayton, OH, the daughter of Raymond and Geraldine (nee Edingfield) Shanks.

On Tuesday, December 18, 1979, at Urasoe City, Okinawa, Japan, she married Irving L. Gray, who survives.

She was a member of Salem United Church of Christ, Alhambra, IL, and Bond County Farm Bureau.

Lorena, grew up in Xenia, Ohio and attended Xenia schools. Following graduation she earned a business degree from Miami Jacobs College. She worked at the Air Force Logistics Command Headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio, eventually becoming a member of the Commanders staff, planning trips, conferences and distinguished visitor meetings. While in this job she earned a master's degree in Logistics Management and Supervision from Central Michigan University. In 1979, she left Wright Patterson to go to Okinawa, and married Irving. At the end of their tour in Japan the Gray's moved to Scott AFB, IL. While there Lorena achieved a dream, unable to bear children, Lorena and Irving adopted three children from the same family. She also achieved a second dream by buying a farm.

The Gray's subsequently moved to New Jersey, South Carolina, and back to Wright Patterson AFB where Irving retired. They returned to their farm in Illinois where they eventually built their own house. They raised calves until a storm with straight line winds destroyed their outbuildings. In her youth, Lorena was active in 4-H. Lorena is an accomplished seamstress, cook and could milk a cow.

Survivors include:

Husband - Irving L. Gray, Old Ripley, IL

Son - Jason (Alana) Gray, Keller, TX

Son - Brian (Sarah) Gray, Chesapeake, VA

Son - Jonathon (Coleen) Gray, Dickson, TN

Daughter - Jodi (Tony Renta) Busch, Dickson, TN

Grandchildren - Six

Sister - Nancy E. (Joe Brohas) Hess, Centerville, OH

Sister - Kathy D. (John) Mixon, Riverside, OH.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister Pamela A. Bright.

Arrangements are being handled by Dauderman Mortuary in Alhambra, IL and McColaugh Funeral Home, Xenia, Ohio.

Visitation will be Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM at McColaugh Funeral Home, Xenia, Ohio.

Memorial Service will be Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 10:30 AM at McColaugh Funeral Home, Xenia, Ohio.

Interment will be at Woodland Cemetery in Xenia, OH.

Memorial contributions may be made to Highland Lions Club or Salem United

Church of Christ.

Tribute Wall

JU

“ *Uncle Irving
We are sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our prayers.
Love
Cindy, George, Frank, Sara, Justine, Bob and the kids*

Justine - October 29, 2024 at 09:31 PM

JL

“ *Justine L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lorena I. Gray.*

Justine L. - October 29, 2024 at 09:27 PM

JA

“ *We will put "the turkey in the oven" with you, Lorena. You will be remembered by your yoga friends.*

Janet - October 23, 2024 at 11:29 AM

NH

“ *Irving,
You have my deepest sympathy.
Lorena was always a sweet and cheerful lady. Prayers for you and your family.
With love,
Doug and Nancy Heidbrink*

Nancy Heidbrink - October 22, 2024 at 06:17 PM