



Ms. Cheryl C. Workcuff

April 22, 1946 - February 28, 2024

Cheryl C. "Cookie" Workcuff

On April 22, 1946, Cheryl Christine Workcuff was lovingly welcomed into the world at Lexington, Missouri by her parents Leota "Puddin'" Garth and Clarence Workcuff Sr. Cheryl (Cookie) began her education at the segregated Douglass Elementary School; then later she attended Central Elementary, Lexington Junior and Senior High Schools, graduating in 1964. Fun-loving and coordinated, Cookie played volleyball and basketball in high school, and continued to love dancing and skating. In 1964, she gave birth to her only child, Kevin Lynn Workcuff, and moved to Kansas City.

In Kansas City, Cookie first worked at the I.R.S., then the Post Office. She left there on disability and later obtained a license in cosmetology at the House of Heavilin. For years, Cookie worked at Mutual Benefit Life, which would later become Fortis Life Insurance Company, from which she retired after 25 years of service. She then started a home baking business, in which she lived up to her namesake and baked cookies, cakes, and pies. Also following retirement, she was an on-site property manager for Houston Enterprises for 20 years, where she maintained a snack shop, selling her baked goods and other novelties. Alongside that she provided part-time office services for Linda Cooper and then became the part-time office manager in the office of Dr. Lester Blue (One of the few eminent black psychologists in Missouri). Her

engaging wit and pleasant countenance often lifted the spirits of patients when they entered the doctor's office.

Cookie was known to be a phenomenal baker and cook. She got her start baking cookies and cupcakes, as Den Mother for Kevin's Cub Scout Troop. Her love of cooking, feeding people and cooking copious amounts of food was passed down from her mother and grandmother, but originated with her grandfather, John Oliver. He cooked huge Sunday dinners for the neighborhood. Kevin said that his mother continued that tradition in her later years insisting that for Thanksgiving, they would cook a 20 pound turkey, homemade dressing, sides, and desserts, for a small group of family and friends and whoever else might show up for the holiday feast.

Listening to live music was a lifelong passion of hers. Being an extrovert, Cookie could talk to anyone. She personally knew and associated with local bands like Oasis, the James Ward Band, JJ and his band. The manager of the Blue Room in the historic Vine district even gave her VIP treatment when she went to see a performance. She was also blessed to have a relative and friend in Monk institute recipient jazz singer Lisa Henry. Ms. Henry has been to Russia and the White House on several occasions. Cookie, having amassed loads of wisdom from generations of strong women, was often viewed as a matriarchal figure; she was always befriended by younger women. Being always positive and open minded, she shared wise-counsel, an empathetic ear, and continued to dream throughout life, even during her trials and tribulations. She also would invite her friends and family to her home for cookies, milk, coffee and/or wine to console, encourage, and laugh with them.

Cookie valued family and maintained close family connections; in addition, she unified both sides of her family and invited her friends into her family, until they became a cohesive unit. Cookie was extraordinarily kind and generous, especially sharing her ear, love, and food when her friends were in need. In

the last years of his life, Cookie reconnected with her high school sweetheart, Wayne Seals until his homecoming in 2022.

Cheryl Christine "Cookie" Workcuff peacefully passed from this world on February 28, 2024, at home. She was predeceased by her parents, Leota "Puddin" Garth and Clarence Workcuff, Sr.; a brother, Clarence "Rudy" Workcuff, Jr.; and her grandparents, John and Hazel Oliver.

Cookie's love, joy, wit, laughter, and intellect will be sorely missed by her son, Kevin Lynn Workcuff of Kansas City; a sister, Clara Workcuff of Marshall, MO; siblings, Gail and Galen Workcuff of Kansas City; a nephew, Jerome Conley of Lexington, MO; cousins, Gary Maltbia of Kansas City, Bettie Flowers of Detroit, MI, Donna Taylor of Lexington, MO, John D, Linda, Willie Smith and Doris Graham of Higginsville, MO, Brenda, Devin, Andrea Haynes and Pam Graham of Olathe, KS; and a host of beloved relatives and dear friends.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday March 16, 2024, 11:00am at Second Baptist Church. Visitation from 10am-11am at the church. Interment Lexington Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 15, 2024, from 6:00pm-8 :00p.m. at Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.

Cemetery Details

Lexington Memory Gardens

13512 Missouri 13 Business
Lexington, MO 64067

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Second Baptist Church
1201 Main Street
Lexington, MO 64067

Funeral Service

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Second Baptist Church
1201 Main Street
Lexington, MO 64067

Tribute Wall

GR

“ I have wondered many many times where Cheryl was and what she did after high school. She and I were such good friends starting in fifth grade at the Douglas school. We always made sure we sat next to each other in classes. We giggled and had fun a lot which sometimes got us into a little trouble but not bad. When I read her tribute, I'm not amazed at anything that was said about her because she was such a cool, joyful person. So happy! I wish I could have seen her before I read this obituary. But, I'll see her in heaven, hopefully.

Gloria Rose - March 22, 2024 at 07:35 PM

PE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pete - March 18, 2024 at 12:11 PM

FV

“ My dear friend and spiritual sister and I met working at MBL and became instant lifelong girlfriends. Often picked her up for lunch or dinner. Unfortunately, we had not seen each other for a year or two. I was planning to visit her but time didn't allow. I am out of town for services but will always have treasured memories of our time together. Thank you Kevin for sharing ; I have let others know. Prayers for strength and energy. Much love and sympathy. Fana Vogelbaugh

Fana Vogelbaugh - March 13, 2024 at 10:22 AM

YB

“ Your 1040X little sister and brothers. purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Ms. Cheryl C. Workcuff.



Your 1040X little sister and brothers. - March 06, 2024 at 09:00 PM

SM

“ Please accept my family's deepest heartfelt condolence for you and your family's loss. Beautiful inside and out one of a kind lady, my family and I will miss you sis we love you until we meet again. Kevin we will be thinking of you in this moment of pain we will be there with you in spirit. Sarah & William Martin Family

Sarah Martin - March 06, 2024 at 02:58 PM

LH

“ What a beautiful lady who loved life to the fullest. You will be missed, Cousin Cookie, but the sweetness of what you left in all of us will live on.

Lisa Henry - March 03, 2024 at 11:59 AM

LH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lisa Henry - March 03, 2024 at 11:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lisa Henry - March 03, 2024 at 11:55 AM