



Mar-Jo VanDalsem Spence

September 28, 1924 - November 9, 2016

Marjorie Jo (Mar-Jo) VanDalsem Spence of Wynne passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones on Wednesday, November 9th, 2016. She was 92 years old.

Mar-Jo was born at home on January 28th, 1924 to Harry Eldridge VanDalsem and Marjorie Jaco VanDalsem of Perryville, Arkansas. She grew up in Perryville where she graduated from Perryville High School and attended Hendrix College in Conway for 3 years, transferring her 4th year to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where she graduated with a BA Degree in Elementary Education. Upon completion of her degree, she joined the war effort, working in the office of a war production plant at Camden, Arkansas, until the end of the war. After this she moved to Wynne, Arkansas, and taught 1st Grade in the Wynne Public Schools. She met her future husband T. O. Spence, a 5 year war veteran who had come to Wynne on a year of furlough, at a blind date Canasta card game set up by mutual friends. They instantly hit it off and dated every night for the next 3 months, except for 2 days when they both had the flu, and then were married at the old Methodist Parsonage in Wynne. They would go on to celebrate 50 happy years together.

When Mar-Jo moved to Wynne, she quickly came to love the community and become involved in it. She loved music and joined the Wynne Music Club. At the time of her passing, she was the club's most senior member and was

honored with a special award of dedication on Veterans Day in 2014. She was a devout member of First United Methodist Church in Wynne where she taught the kindergarten Sunday School class for over 35 years as well as being a member with her husband of the Go Getters Sunday School Class. At the request of friends, she formed the Cross County Hospital Auxiliary and served in numerous positions, including over 30 years co-chairing the Scholarship Committee, remaining until the hospital became part of the St. Bernards system. She volunteered in many capacities in the community including Cub Scout Den Mother, Brownie Scout leader, member of the Order of the Eastern Star, school volunteer, and was a regular visitor to Wynne's nursing homes up until her last few years. One of her most cherished activities was gathering with her Ladies Coffee Group, an informal group of friends and neighbors with children who met at each other's houses every weekday at 3:30 to drink coffee and share everyday events in their lives. This special group of friends met for over 60 years. Mar-Jo was especially devoted to the city park in front of her house where she and her oldest children planted pine seedlings that are now towering at each end. She was a tireless advocate for maintaining and improving the park and loved spending her golden years in her carport sipping coffee and watching the children playing.

In addition to being a homemaker, Mar-Jo was active in business, helping with bookkeeping and accounting at her husband's Gulf gas stations and bulk oil plant, the T. O. Spence Oil Company. She and her husband bought farmland and worked to improve their land. She and her husband served on the board of directors of the Perry County Bank, a small bank started by her father, and upon her mother's passing she was elected to fill her position as Chairman of the Board where she served until its sale in 1980. She was a highly regarded businesswoman with a reputation for fairness and generosity.

Mar-Jo was preceded in death by her parents H. E. and Marjorie VanDalsem of Perryville, AR and her son-in-law Stan Langley of Jonesboro. She is

survived by her children; Talmage Van Spence, Gregory Glenn Spence (and wife Alisa) of Wynne and her daughter, Sharon Spence Langley of Jonesboro. She is also survived by her three beloved grandchildren; Katherine Eldridge Langley of Chicago, Talmadge Nicholas Spence and Cole Glenn Spence of Wynne.

She also leaves a group of long-time loving caregivers: Nelda Boatner, Dusty Stewart, Patricia Stewart, Wanda Diggs, Brenda Goacher, Jazmine Mathis, and Jinnie Pack and Gail Dye.

Honorary Pall Bearers include all members of the Go Getters Sunday School Class and the Ladies Coffee Group.

Visitation will be Sunday, November 13, 2016 at Wynne First United Methodist Church from 1 to 2 PM in the Martha Murray Hall. Funeral services will follow at 2 PM with burial in Crosslawn Cemetery.

For those wishing to make a lasting memorial the family has requested First United Methodist Church in Wynne or the Wynne Music Club.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Wynne
800 Falls Blvd
Wynne, AR 72396

Celebration of Life

NOV 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Wynne
800 Falls Blvd
Wynne, AR 72396

Interment

NOV 13 (CT)

Crosslawn Cemetery
Wynne, AR

Tribute Wall

VH

“ So sorry to learn of Ms Marjo's passing. Ms Winnie Sigman and I spent many afternoons at her home having coffee and visiting. I always enjoyed her hospitality and the stories she shared about her life. What a wonderful legacy she has left, I know she will be greatly missed by family and friends and the community that she gave her time and love!

Vicki Holzhauer - November 25, 2016 at 11:27 AM

DS

“ What a beautiful life!
Mrs. Mar Jo was a remarkable woman filled with other grace and humility.
I am grateful to have known her.
My love and prayers go out to the family.

Donna Ginn Smith - November 17, 2016 at 08:51 AM

TB

“ Mar-Jo was an institution in our neighborhood just like all our mothers. No matter where u were in our neighborhood the nearest mother WAS your mother, She was always smiling & gracious to all. I didn't know who got that wonderful park built but every time I'm in Wynne & drive by our old house I'm amazed at how pretty it is & there are always people enjoying the beautiful playground she created.
She would want y'all to celebrate her life & I'm glad y'all were able to let her come hhome one last time. My prayers are with you all.
Tanya Kinman Baldwin

Tanya Kinman Baldwin - November 16, 2016 at 06:35 AM

EB

“ Eldridge Brawner lit a candle in memory of Mar-Jo VanDalsem Spence



Eldridge Brawner - November 14, 2016 at 04:53 AM

EJ

“ Special prayers for all of you from the Justice Family.

Elisa and Karl Justice - November 14, 2016 at 12:44 AM

LW

“ We have many wonderful memories of Mar-Jo. She was a Christian!
A

supporter of the church, progress in the community, and always supported bond issues to improve the school. She supported the arts, especially music. She was a talented musician. She taught many children in Sunday School including our Wendell and Denise. She was happy and fun to be with. May she rest in peace. With much love.

Leon, Ruby, Wendell and Denise Wigginton

Leon and Ruby Wigginton - November 13, 2016 at 04:47 PM

BD

“ Greg, Van, family and friends:. Sad to hear that Mar-Jo has gone ahead and will be waiting for family and friends to join her in Heaven. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Buddy and Jo Diebold

Buddy and Jo Diebold - November 13, 2016 at 11:55 AM

JA

“ Greg sending thoughts and prayers! I loved your mom and her spirit!
Prayers,
Janice

Janice - November 12, 2016 at 04:16 PM

ST

“ In 2000 when we opened New Directions of Cross County Mrs. Marjo joyfully gathered things for the shelter. She talked to the ladies of the Methodist Church and they faithfully provided paper goods, cleaning supplies, encouragement and support. She was an awesome lady and it was a privilege to know her. I have no words for the family that will take away the pain of losing her. I just really admired her and wanted you to know how much of a blessing she was to me.
Sincerely,

Shirley Tyson

Shirley Tyson - November 12, 2016 at 10:39 AM

JW

“ James Williams purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mar-Jo VanDalsem Spence.



James Williams - November 12, 2016 at 10:24 AM

SH

“ So sorry for your loss. Shirley Hale

Shirley Hale - November 12, 2016 at 09:03 AM

JC

“ *The Spence family holds a special place in the Argo family's heart... Marjo was so kind to us and such an Angel to Tommy when he was ill. Selfless, loving and an inspiration! Love and prayers to you all...*
Janice Argo Cranford

janice cranford - November 11, 2016 at 10:21 PM