



Beulah Fae Brown

MAR 21, 1923 - JUN 4, 2021



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Beulah Fae Brown

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Beulah Fae Davis Brown, 98 years young, passed from this life into eternity on Friday, June 4, 2021 at her home surrounded by family. She was a wonderful daughter, devoted wife, beloved sister, precious mother, loving grandmother and great-grandmother, cherished aunt, and a loyal friend to many.

Her service of celebration of life will be held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at Unity Baptist Church, Vandalia (Route 185). Interment will precede the service at 10:00 AM at Fairlawn Cemetery, Vandalia. Visitation will be from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on Monday, June 7, 2021 at Hohlt and File Funeral Home, Vandalia. Memorials may be made to Evans Library, Fayette County Hospital Auxiliary, Fayette County Hospital Long Term Care, Unity Baptist Church, Summer Lunch Program or a charity of choice. Online condolences can be expressed at www.hohltandfilefh.com

Beulah, the third of six children born to Charles Edgar and Mary Perring Davis, was born on March 21, 1923 at the family farm home 6 miles west of Effingham. She received her education at Defiance School, a one-room school house with 8 grades, Effingham High School, and Eastern Illinois University. She first taught at McCoy School, a one-room country school with 8 grades and then moved to Vandalia in 1943 to teach 3rd grade at Washington School. It was in Vandalia that she met W. David Brown and they married on June 9, 1946. She was a wonderful support to Dave in his careers as Farm Loan Manager at First National Bank of Vandalia, as owner of Brown Implement Company in Brownstown, as an owner of farms, as Chief Deputy and then Sheriff of Fayette County, and as an employee for the State of Illinois at Vandalia State Farm. He passed unexpectedly on October 11, 1970.

Nothing except her faith in Jesus Christ was more important to Beulah than her family, whom she considered precious. She continued teaching until their first daughter, Mary Beth, was born in 1949 and then stayed home with Beth and their second daughter, Cynthia Lee, born three years later. She returned to teaching in 1957 in the kindergarten classroom at Lincoln School and helped hundreds of students begin their education until she retired from that position in May, 1986. She believed that every child was special and that every child could learn. She felt it was her



Obituary

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responsibility and honor to help each and every child realize that education – even in kindergarten – was the window to a life of learning and opportunity. She herself was a life-long learner and always had knowledge and wisdom to share with her family. She was never happier than she was when she was spending time with family or helping someone else.

Beulah remained an active resident of Vandalia through her involvement in community activities including Unity Baptist Church (formerly First Baptist), Fayette County Hospital Auxiliary, Evergreen Outreach, reading with students at school, Evans Library, Fayette County Cancer Fund, Senior Citizens, Golden Circle Nutrition, Habitat for Humanity Resale Shop, and several others. She faced challenges with grace and determination, believing that attitude was every bit as important as ability. She was honored to have received the Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women and the Abe Award from the Chamber of Commerce in 1991. It humbled her to be chosen as the Grand Marshall of the Vandalia Bicentennial parade in 2019.

Beulah loved traveling. She had visited all 50 states, several European countries, and Israel. When mobility made it difficult to travel in person, she loved reading and learning about places she would have loved to visit.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband David, her daughter Beth Brown Gilliland (1990), her five siblings and two of their spouses: Noble, Millie Hall (Ray,) Ken, Warren, & Phil (Liz) and her half-sister & husband, Mamie Davis Parks (Fred.)

She is survived by her daughter Cindy Brown Harding (Steve) of North Richland Hills, TX and her four grandsons: David Harding (Katie Leicht) of Austin, TX, Joshua Harding (Ashley and their 3 sons Caiden, Landen, & Jaxton) of Keller, TX, John C. Gilliland III of Desert Hot Springs, CA, and David Gilliland (Noreen and their 2 sons Ethan & Henry) of Carmel, IN. Other survivors include her sister-in-law Ruth Davis of Fort Myers, FL and nieces and nephews on both the Davis and Brown sides of her family.

She died as she lived, with strength, faith, grace, and dignity. Her family is thankful for the wonderful woman she was, grateful for her long life, and blessed to be her legacy.






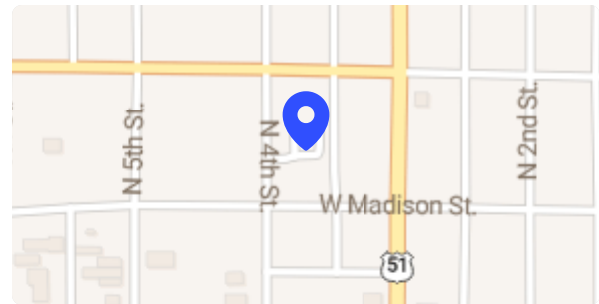
Events

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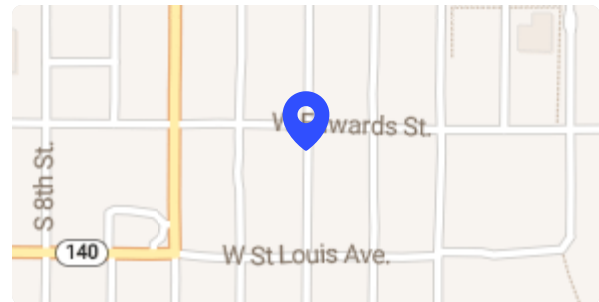
Visitation

-  **Monday**, June 7, 2021
-  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
-  **Hohlt & File Funeral Home, Ltd.**
204 N 4th Street, Vandalia IL 62471






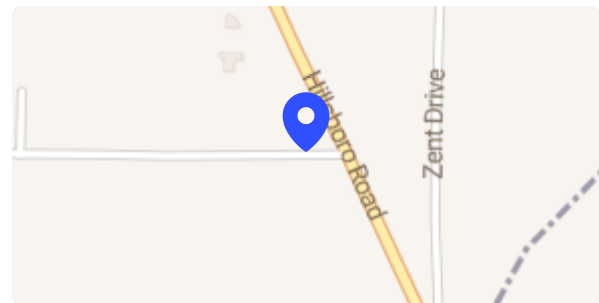
Interment

-  **Tuesday**, June 8, 2021
-  10:00 AM CT
-  **Fairlawn Cemetery**
South 6th St, Vandalia IL 62471




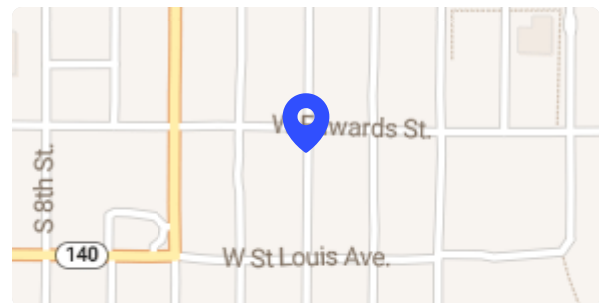
Celebration of Life

-  **Tuesday**, June 8, 2021
-  11:00 AM CT
-  **Unity Baptist Church - HWY 185**
716 E County Rd 1700 N, Vandalia IL 62471



Cemetery Details

-  **Fairlawn Cemetery**
South 6th St, Vandalia IL 62471





Tribute Wall

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Cheryl Oertwig posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mrs Brown was my kindergarten teacher. She taught me the importance of learning and left a life long impression in my heart. God bless you, Mrs Brown.

June 10 at 5:23 AM



Lynn O'hara shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Know that we are with you in Spirit to celebrate the wonderful legacy of faith that was passed to you. I loved her spunk and giving heart and loved seeing her every first week of December when she came. We send our love from Texas!David and Lynn O'Hara



June 8 at 6:52 AM



David J Meador posted:

My sincere condolences to Cindy and family. I remember Beulah and David from First Baptist and lived just across from Albrights on Burtschi St. My mother and I kept in touch with her and Mildred for years. My first job was actually working at the newspaper in Windsor owned by Millie's husband Ray. I remember stopping by the gift shop at the hospital whenever we would stop in and see Mildred and she was such a wonderful lady to talk to. We should all be as lucky as she was to have lived such a long and interesting life with such a devotion to those around her. I am sure she will long be remembered.

June 7 at 12:18 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Brown family.



June 6 at 4:56 PM



Tribute Wall

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Susan Williamson posted:

I have many wonderful memories of spending time at 929 Jay Street, which was a quick walk from my childhood home at 819 Burtschi Street. Mrs. Brown (Beulah) was a caring woman who was always doing for others. Even in her later years, she maintained a positive outlook and served as an example of a life well lived. She will be missed. Love to Cindy and the extended family during this time of loss, but also a time to celebrate her life. Susan Albright Williamson

June 6 at 1:21 PM



Colleen Gray June 6 at 4:37 PM

I first met Mrs Brown when Cindy & I were roomates at SIU Carbondale, she was lovely and our families clicked immediately. Cindy & I have kept in touch since meeting in 1970! Mrs Brown was the best kindergarten teacher in Vandalia, and everyone knew her & loved her! She will be missed & remembered! Love to Cindy & families, in celebrating her life! Colleen Brown Gray & Jim Gray



Anonymous sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Brown family.



June 6 at 10:18 AM



Anonymous sent a Heavenly Grace Spray to the Brown family.



June 6 at 5:49 AM



Sue Harrison posted:

What a jewel as evidenced by the life she lived. Never one to complain but to turn her scars into stars and let her light shine for Jesus. Would love to be present for her Celebration of Life, but we are still in Arizona. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you Cindy, and grateful that the Lord had a better room prepared for her then what you were trying to figure out. 🙏😊

June 5 at 2:16 PM



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Sheila & Lisa, Mike, Jessica, And Joshua sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Brown family.



June 5 at 1:12 PM



Media

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Lynn O'hara shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 8 at 6:52 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Beulah by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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