



Sylvia I. Kerley

January 8, 1946 - February 3, 2024

Sylvia Irene Fowler was born January 8, 1946 in Wigan, England. She departed this life peacefully Saturday morning, February 3, 2024.

Sylvia's parents were Raymond Clayton Fowler and Irene Duck, who met while Clayton was stationed in England while serving in the US Army. When Sylvia was 5 months old, she and her mother moved to Fort Smith, AR to join her father.

Sylvia was the oldest of her three siblings, Mance Wayne Fowler, Alan Fowler and Beverly Ann Fowler. They all attended DuVal School, Darby Junior School and Northside High School in Fort Smith, AR. Sylvia graduated from Northside in 1964. After graduation she worked at Miller's Jewelry and Southwestern Bell Telephone as a long-distance operator.

Shortly after graduation she met her future husband, Ray, at Beverly's Drive-in, which was the best place to socialize and meet new people. Harold "Ray" Kerley and Sylvia Irene Fowler were married at Midland Heights Methodist Church in Fort Smith, AR on June 30, 1967. After their marriage, they moved to Waukegan, IL.

Sylvia got a job at Kupperman Furniture and then Beasley Waukegan Clinic. After spending 5 years at the clinic, she went to Victory Hospital Medical Records. During her six years there she became an Accredited Records Technician.

After several years of marriage, Ray and Sylvia were told that they couldn't have children. They had decided to adopt, but three days before the first

interview they found out that Sylvia was pregnant. Their first son, Kevin Ray, was born in December of 1978. Two years later their second son, Kent Ryan, was also born in December. Sylvia became a stay-at-home mom to raise her boys. After the boys started school, Sylvia returned to the workforce in 1987. While she said she would never work at a nursing home, she took a position as Director of Medical Records at St. Joseph's Home For the Aged, where she worked for twenty more years before retiring.

Aside from working, Sylvia had several hobbies. She loved music and playing the piano. Using God's gift, she played the piano wherever she was needed, including Sunday School and International Order of the Rainbows. Later in life, she played for church services at Lake of Egypt Christian Church in Marion, IL. Even though the church didn't have one, she felt the Lord calling her to revive the choir. She was always proud of becoming their choir director without having any prior experience. She also really enjoyed sewing and quilting; she even made her own wedding dress while waiting for Ray's return from Vietnam.

Ray and Sylvia retired to Goreville, IL to be near Ray's family. During their retirement, they attended many southern gospel concerts across the country with special friends and were very involved with their church. While they always considered Goreville their home, eventually they moved to Wisconsin to spend their later years close to their sons and grandchildren. They were married 56 years before Ray died in November of 2023. Sylvia joined Ray with the Lord on February 3, 2024.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Ray Kerley; her parents, Raymond and Irene Fowler; sister-in-law, Ethel Fowler; and two brothers-in-law, Don and Ron Kerley.

She is survived by her sons, Kevin (Samantha) and Kent (Taylor); her grandchildren Jaxson, Ashlynn and Atlee; and her siblings, Wayne, Alan (Nancy) and Beverly.

A joint graveside service honoring the lives of Harold Ray Kerley and Sylvia Irene (Fowler) Kerley will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Gilead

Cemetery (4356 Gilead Church Road, Simpson IL 62985) at 11:00am. Pastor Leroy Waggoner will officiate.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 10:30 A.M. until the service time.

Military honors will be accorded by the Beggs-Gurley VFW Post # 5222 and the Illinois National Guard Burial Honors Detail.

Memorials may be made to the Gilead Cemetery Fund or to the Lake of Egypt Christian Church

Cemetery Details

Gilead Cemetery

4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

FEB 24. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gilead Cemetery
4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Graveside Service

FEB 24. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gilead Cemetery
4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Tribute Wall

BC

“ Baird Compliance planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sylvia I. Kerley.

Baird Compliance - February 21, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Sylvia I. Kerley.



February 21, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sylvia I. Kerley.



February 14, 2024 at 10:08 PM

CG

“ Sylvia was my longtime friend. We met at Lakeview Church in Sunday School. We then shared a Bible study group that started 28 years ago. Sylvia was a very kind woman..She and Ray were a strong and loving couple. I will miss her but praise God we will be reunited one day.

Carol Gray - February 09, 2024 at 09:40 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of
Sylvia I. Kerley.



February 07, 2024 at 10:43 PM