



Wilma Jean Palmer

May 17, 1938 - February 6, 2026

Wilma Jean (McElwee) Palmer passed away peacefully on February 6, 2026. Jean, as she was known to family and friends, was born on May 17, 1938 in Knoxville, Missouri to Pearley and Eula (Anson) McElwee.

She attended elementary school in Knoxville and graduated from William Chrisman High School in Independence, Missouri where she was a member of The National Art Honor Society and the 1957 Homecoming Queen. In 1959 Jean married James E. Palmer, Sr. Together they raised two sons, James Jr. and Jon Eric. Jean also worked full time in upper management positions. In her spare time, she enjoyed square dancing, doll making, tole painting, refinishing furniture and, of course, shopping. After retiring Jean and Jim moved to Odessa, Missouri to enjoy a quiet country life. An accomplished quilter, Jean helped establish an impressive Quilters' Guild in nearby Lexington where she and Jim were also members of Trinity United Church of Christ. Jean was beautiful, gracious and kind. A true lady. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Hers was indeed a life well lived.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband Jim, her parents and four siblings. She leaves behind two sons, James E. Palmer, Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Hanes and Jon Eric Palmer and his wife, Cayce Palmer as well as five grandchildren – Chance, Turner, Ian, Avery and William and one brother, Leroy McElwee.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday February 20, 2026 at The Missouri Veterans Cemetery - 20109 Bus. MO-13 Higginsville, MO 64037. There will be a reception afterwards at Trinity United Church of Christ - 1312 Franklin Avenue Lexington, Missouri 64067.

Cemetery Details

Higginsville Veterans Cemetery

20109 Business Highway 13
Higginsville, MO 64037

Previous Events

Service

FEB 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Higginsville Veterans Cemetery
20109 Business Highway 13
Higginsville, MO 64037

Reception

FEB 20. 12:00 PM (CT)

Trinity United Church of Christ
1312 Franklin Avenue
Lexington, MO 64067

Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Liles wood simmons purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Wilma Jean Palmer.*



Liles wood simmons - February 15 at 04:41 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Reflections Memorial Services LLC - February 14 at 12:59 PM