



Wilma Jean Gary

October 9, 1928 - July 18, 2025

Wilma Jean (Mathews) Gary, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend to many, passed away on July 18, 2025, peacefully at the age of 96, surrounded by the love of her family. Born on October 9, 1928, in Stroud, Oklahoma, to Jim and Hester (Cochran) Mathews, Wilma lived a long, full life defined by grace, humor, faith, and deep devotion to her family.

A 1946 graduate of Oney High School, Wilma was an active student who enjoyed playing basketball, piano, and singing. That same year, she married the love of her life, Alvin Gary, in Oklahoma City. Together, they built a life centered around faith, family, and simple joys.

In 1980, Wilma and Alvin moved from Tehachapi, California to Atwood, Oklahoma where they joined the Nazarene Church and became very active members and acquired many close, lifelong friends. In 2005 they moved to Pauls Valley, Oklahoma and became members of the Pauls Valley Nazarene Church.

Before becoming a full-time homemaker, Wilma worked in sales at Montgomery Ward Catalog Store. She later found her true calling in the home, raising her children with love, wisdom, and an unwavering presence—never missing a single sports event. She was known for her selflessness and her ability to make everyone around her feel seen, valued, and loved.

Wilma had a deep love for gardening and flowers, and she found great joy in spending time outdoors. One of the highlights of her later years was an unforgettable cruise to Alaska, where she boarded an airplane for the first

time in her life—a symbol of her adventurous spirit and openness to new experiences.

She had a flair for fashion and often sewed her own clothes during her younger years. Wilma was also a talented cook, and her famous pot roast and Mississippi mud cake became family traditions that will be treasured for generations.

To know Wilma was to be embraced by kindness. She taught those around her to trust in the Lord, to always show compassion, and to follow the golden rule: “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say it at all.” Her humor, silliness, and warm laughter brought joy to every room she entered. Wilma was lovingly referred to as “Momma” by many—an affectionate title that reflected the nurturing role she played in countless lives.

Her appearance mattered to her, and she took pride in regular visits to the beauty shop at The Willows, where she was adored by staff and residents alike. Wilma never judged others and accepted people exactly as they were. Her life was a living example of unconditional love and grace.

She leaves behind a legacy in her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren—each of whom were the true highlights of her life.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to The Willows Assisted Living Center and to the compassionate nurses and staff at Valir Hospice for their loving care in Wilma’s final days.

Wilma was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Gary; parents, Jim and Hester (Cochran) Mathews; Son, Dennis Gary; Grandson, Andy Gary; Great-Grandson, Hayden Sisk; Brothers, Floyd, Donald, Charles, Johnny, Loren, Leon; Sisters, Dorothy, Violet, Lola May, Corene, Aleen, and Mary.

Wilma is survived by her Sons, Rick Gary and wife Louise of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, David Gary and wife Terrie of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; Daughter, Cheri Wanier and husband Harvey of San Angelo, Texas; Brother, Jerry Fink, Eight grandchildren; Seventeen great-grandchildren; Five great-great-grandchildren; and a host of other family and friends.

Memorial Services for Wilma will be August 9, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. at Atwood Church of the Nazarene in Atwood, Oklahoma with Larry McDaniel officiating. If you would like to send your condolences to the family you may do so at www.woosterfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 9. 12:00 PM (CT)

Atwood Church of the Nazarene
Atwood, OK

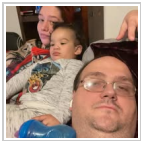
Tribute Wall



“ *Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Wilma Jean Gary*



Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 08, 2025 at 11:36 AM



“ *I will never forget you Mama. The world is a little bit darker and will never be the same without you. Enjoy your walk with the angels We love and miss you always.*



Jason Barth - August 14, 2025 at 05:47 PM

ND

“ *I'm Nicole, I took care of Ms Wilma (mama) at the willows. And she always knew how to put a smile on my face! She always told me stories of her when she was younger, always had amazing stories. She would even listen to mine and give me advice on anything I needed. I recently went swimming and the whole time me and my boyfriend were there, I had a purple dragonfly on my shoulder, followed me everywhere. I knew that was her telling me she was doing just fine! She will always have a special place in my heart! Love you Wilma! 💜💜*

Nicole Deslaurier - August 04, 2025 at 07:55 PM

HH

“ I'm Cheri's sister in law, Harvey's sister. Wilma was a treasure and blessing to know. I didn't see her often but each and every time I did see her she brought a huge smile and a warmth to my heart. Always cheerful, smiling, with words that lightened your day. In her later years I'd get to chat for just a minute on the phone..... she'd always say she was still trying to keep Harvey in line. What a priceless treasure we have lost but what an amazing soul heaven has gained.

Helen Harville - July 31, 2025 at 02:32 PM

LH

“ Some of my sweetest childhood memories are the summers spent with my cousins—moments filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of family. After my mom passed, it was my aunt who helped fill that painful void. Her presence reminded me that I was still deeply loved. Because of her, I never truly felt the full weight of that loss.

She was only a phone call away, and that alone brought comfort. Her smile could light up a room, and her heart was one of the purest I've ever known. Just being near her made any day better.

She was one of a kind—irreplaceable, unforgettable, and forever loved.

lisa Hand - July 25, 2025 at 10:01 PM

PH

I can remember when we went back to a 4th of July weekend. Still had a great family reunion. Best fried chicken ever. Remember visiting with them in tehachapi California. Got a cut on back of leg from bobwire. Still have and proud of. I remember get together in Stroud Oklahoma at Aunt Dorothy. Best homemade ice cream ever. I was always in touch with Aunt Lola and she kept me updated on everyone. Aunt Wilma you will be missed. I'm Correne daughter.

Patty Hogan - July 31, 2025 at 03:06 PM

JQ

I met Mrs. Wilma Gary in 1962 when she was a room mother for Rick's fourth grade class in Tehachapi, California. She always kind and sincere. Whenever I went to visit Dave and Rick at their home on Tucker Road, she and her husband made me feel welcome. Any encounter I had with her was a positive one. As another childhood friend told me when he thought of her said " I have the fondest memories of her and seeing her at many sporting events supporting Dave and Rick." Heartfelt condolences. Javier L. Quesada

Javier L. Quesada - August 04, 2025 at 06:40 PM