



Maxine Baker Kemp

July 6, 1926 - January 13, 2019

Maxine Kemp, 92, of Fayetteville, a retired educator, died Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, at her home.

Born July 6, 1926, in Malvern, she was the daughter of Max and Grace Baker.

Maxine attended high school in Stilwell, Okla. An outstanding student, she began her studies at Ouachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia at age 16 and earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry.

While at Ouachita, she married Cecil Kemp, a native of Warren. He was an All-American football player and president of the student body and she was an honor student.

Following graduation from Ouachita, the Kemps began a long career as public school educators. She taught science and he was a teacher, coach and administrator at Searcy, Parkin, Arkadelphia, Mena, Dardanelle and Limon, Colo.

Maxine retired from teaching at Dardanelle and then spent several rewarding years as an ESL counselor with the Yell County Literacy Program. She was a wonderful advocate for many disadvantaged members of her community who were seeking a better life for their families.

Her husband died in 1982. In 2007 he was inducted into the Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame and Maxine was there to receive the award in his honor. In 2005 she was named Citizen of the Year by the Dardanelle Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of her dedicated work in the local school system, her church and the community.

A lifelong Baptist and committed Christian, she was always dedicated and involved in her local church and made many lifelong friends as a result. She took her teaching responsibilities very seriously and touched the lives of her students in a positive and productive manner at each of her teaching posts.

Maxine was a loving wife, supportive parent and doting grandmother and great-grandmother. Along with her faith, her family was the focus of her life. A very intelligent person, she continued her interest in education and knowledge of the world around her throughout her entire life.

She spent the final years of her life in West Fork and Fayetteville, near the home of her daughter, and kept a positive attitude despite recent health problems. Her final two years were spent happily at Brookstone Assisted Living in Fayetteville.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Gordon Maxwell Baker. Survivors include her son, Ron (Nancy) Kemp of Rector; her daughter, Kay (Charlie) Rossetti of West Fork; grandchildren Wendy Osier of Vilonia, Dominic Rossetti of Batesville, Jonathan Kemp of Jonesboro and Ashley Wimberley of Little Rock; great-grandchildren Lillian Osier, Jay Rossetti, Campbell Osier, Anna Wimberley, Maggie Wimberley, Mary Claire Kemp, Henry Rossetti and Madison Blue.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Rockport Cemetery near Malvern. Memorials may be made to the River Valley Literacy Council, 501 North Front Street, Dardanelle, AR 72834, or the World Missions program at the West Fork Baptist Church, 246 North Centennial Ave., West Fork, AR 72774.

Cemetery

Rockport Cemetery

Malvern, AR, 72104

Events

JAN 18 Graveside Service 01:00PM

Rockport Cemetery

Malvern, AR, US, 72104

Comments



“ In the early 90's my husband and I moved to Dardanelle. Maxine was my Sunday School teacher and through that experience, we became close friends. She was such an intelligent, kind, and thoughtful person and we have stayed in touch with each other all through the years. What an impact she had on my life; I will truly miss her
Ella Braden

Ella Braden - January 18 at 10:51 AM



“ Ella:

Thank you for your kind comments. She really valued your friendship and talked of you very often. God bless you and your family.

Ron Kemp

Ron Kemp - January 29 at 11:09 AM



“ Maxine was a beautiful woman inside and out. We loved her but she loved us too ! Ron and Nancy we will keep you in our prayers and our hearts. Sending love from Rector

dgailford@hotmail.com - January 17 at 11:20 PM



“ Maxine Kemp was one of the most tolerant, intelligent, loving, gracious, and giving people I have ever had the privilege of knowing. She loved children and people and was an outstanding educator who positively touched and enriched the lives of thousands. She was a realist who understood the difficulties resulting from poverty and hardship and tried to remedy those. She was a true Christian who lived the Golden Rule and treated all people with acceptance and tolerance. As an optimist she was fighter for good causes and exhibited faith in the future. Her life was one of dignity and grace. She shared her humor and joy with others and used reason and intelligence to attack ignorance. She was the embodiment of so many fine qualities and made the lives of those she touched so much better. I am honored to have called her a friend. As I offer my sincere condolences to her family, I respectfully remind you of how honored you are to have her in your family. We are all honored to have known and loved this beautiful lady.

Diane Gleason - January 17 at 01:45 PM



“ Diane, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for such a beautiful tribute to Maxine. We know she treasured your friendship.

Nancy Kemp - January 20 at 05:16 PM



“ I did not know Maxine until we both moved to North Arkansas but soon felt we had been long-time friends. She was a person who was upbeat and always after we had an outing I felt uplifted as we had serious conversations but also found lots to laugh about. Maxine was a wonderful Christian lady who loved her family, church, friends and life in general. Wonderful memories will give you comfort and perhaps the knowledge that she will be missed by many..All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. Lougene Redden



Lougene Redden - January 17 at 01:31 PM



“ Lougene:

We really appreciate your kind and thoughtful comments. She made several really good friends late in life, including you. She never quit living life to the fullest. Thank you for being such a good friend to Mom. I know the two of you had some great time together.

Ron Kemp

Ron Kemp - January 29 at 11:12 AM



“ The David & Loreta Moore children send you our love. Aunt Maxine was a joy! We loved her sparkling eyes, and her stories. What a wonderful lady. We are very glad she joined in with the McClain Siblings gatherings in recent years so we could be around her more often. We will miss her too.

Kathy Dunn

Kathy Dunn - January 16 at 09:02 AM



“ Thank you, Kathy, for your kind words. She really enjoyed those gatherings and being around everyone from her extended family. God bless all of you.

Ron Kemp

Ron Kemp - January 29 at 11:14 AM



“ I have so many fond memories of Mrs. Kemp. From times spent working on Mt. Nebo with a group of High School students, all of the activities she shared with the GAs at Dardanelle First Baptist and many hours in her classroom. I am truly grateful for the influence that she had on my life. Rhonda Aday Dare

Rhonda Dare - January 15 at 11:51 PM



“ Thank you, Rhonda, for sharing those memories. Her days in Dardanelle were filled with a lot of great activities, especially her experiences with young people such as you. She had a great influence on a lot of students and church friends. Hope all is well with you and your family.

Ron Kemp

Ron Kemp - January 29 at 11:16 AM



“ Margie and Rick Keyes purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White for the family of Maxine Baker Kemp.



Margie and Rick Keyes - January 15 at 11:31 AM



“ A very remarkable lady. She was my aunt who had a great love for her husband and family. A memory i will share is when I was still in high school, Aunt maxine and Uncle Cecil came to our house for a visit. We made several pictures but three stand out. In all three pictures Aunt Maxine was looking at Uncle Cecil. Ron and Kay, keep all the precious memories of her close to your heart.....Buddy

Buddy Taylor - January 14 at 07:55 PM



“ You only had to meet her to know that she was a remarkable woman. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to meet and spend time with her. I know the family has many fond memories. Those memories are such a blessing and will be a great help during the times ahead. Lynn Taylor

Lynn Taylor - January 14 at 07:43 PM



“ I only met Maxine a few months ago but felt an instant connection to her. My mother in law's name was Maxine,. She & I laughed together, was called down at Brookstone:) & shared so many 'similiarities!' We were both football coach's wives, & teachers; we discovered she was at Highland watching her grandson play for Rector when my husband was coaching at Highland. Wish I'd known her then! She went to Ouachita with my mother & loved when I brought old pics & memorabilia from the 1940's. She loved her Lord & family. I was blessed to hear stories of Cecil's coaching days, their life in Limo & of course all about the grands & 'great' grandkids that she was so proud of & had their pics proudly displayed. She never quit learning, that was the teacher coming out. Family, I don't know you but feel like I do because of her vivid descriptions & stories. I extend my sincere sympathy & want you to know I will miss that beautiful lady who always had a twinkle in her eye.

Belinda Hill - January 16 at 04:38 PM



“ Thanks so much for your faithful visits and warm friendship. She looked forward to seeing you and always talked about your visits.

Kay Kemp Rossetti - January 27 at 05:42 PM



“ Belinda:

Thank you so much for your visits to Mom and for the friendship you developed with her. She talked about it often. It is remarkable how many similarities there are between the Hill and Kemp families. A lot revolves around football! I also was at several of the games coached by your husband -- and there were some good ones. You are correct that Mom never quit wanting to learn -- she was very unique in that way. She was a wonderful Christian woman and so are you.

Ron Kemp

Ron Kemp - January 29 at 11:06 AM