



Shirley Ann Couzens

August 27, 1938 - April 30, 2024

Shirley Ann Couzens, a true woman of God, died on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's. Shirley, 85, was born on August 27, 1938, in Jolley Springs, Tennessee, the daughter of Robert and Gracey (Stephens) Thomas. She was a 1956 graduate of Lansing Eastern High School. Shirley worked at the M.S.U. 4-H Youth Programs Office retiring in 1982. On September 10, 1982, Shirley married Donald B. Couzens and together they spent the next 41 years creating lasting memories. Her two sons, Mark, and Michael, brought so much joy to her life and she was so proud of all their accomplishments. She was a devoted member of the New Hope Community Church.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Donald; sons, Mark Alan (Sheri) Sleep, and Michael Roy (Claire) Sleep; step-daughter, Teri Lynn (Pat) McNea; 8 grandchildren, Rachel, Brianne, David, Jeff, Nichole, Nic, Jack, and Brooke; and 4 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents; and siblings, William (Margaret) Thomas, Mary (Harvey) Moore, Robert "Buck" (Betty) Thomas, Wanda (Jim) Bott, Emma (Lex) Chumley, and Halbert (Jewel) Thomas.

Friends are encouraged to support Shirley's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Victor

Williams officiating at the New Hope Community Church in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association or the New Hope Community Church. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Community Church
436 W. Harris
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Lisa D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Couzens.

Lisa D. - May 06, 2024 at 02:45 PM

HF

“ Aunt Shirley was a very special lady. We always enjoyed seeing her when she was able to come down.. We will miss her...



Halbert and Jewel's Family - May 06, 2024 at 02:43 PM

DO

“ Don planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Couzens.

Don - May 04, 2024 at 07:22 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Couzens.



May 04, 2024 at 07:22 AM

FF

“ From Buck and Betty's family. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Shirley Ann Couzens.



From Buck and Betty's family. - May 01, 2024 at 10:42 AM

TD

“ The Chumley's Theresa Randy Debby & Dee purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Shirley Ann Couzens.



The Chumley's Theresa Randy Debby & Dee - April 30, 2024 at 07:57 PM

EF

“ Ed & Sheila Thomas and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Couzens.

Ed & Sheila Thomas and Family - April 30, 2024 at 02:50 PM

EF

“ Ed & Sheila Thomas and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Shirley Ann Couzens.



Ed & Sheila Thomas and Family - April 30, 2024 at 02:50 PM

JS

“ Jeff & Jess Sleep planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Couzens.

Jeff & Jess Sleep - April 30, 2024 at 02:08 PM

JS

“ Jeff & Jess Sleep purchased the Sweet Solace S pray for the family of Shirley Ann Couzens.



Jeff & Jess Sleep - April 30, 2024 at 02:08 PM

MS

“ My mom was a strong woman. She divorced with two small children and raised them by herself making sure they were independent and knew God. She was always a people person and willing to help others.
She had many jobs at MSU before retiring and starting a new life with Don. They moved often and traveled often. She couldn't ask for a better companion. They loved to sit together and hold hands. Her love and trust in God was unwavering. She always liked spreading the word of God to those around her.

Mark Sleep - April 30, 2024 at 01:37 PM

SS

Shirley had been like a mother to me. She was the one that would pray for me and others whether she was asked to or not! I have known her for almost 47 years and 39 of them as her daughter-in-law.

Boy, did have the knack of decorating. She could go into a second-hand store and walk out with whatever she was looking for. If the color wasn't right, she'd paint it. Bent flowers, no issue, just glue or tape them. It always amazed me. She did a wonderful job raising Mark and Mike, as they are both kind, helpful to those in need, even tempered, the list could go on. But most of all, loved Jesus and raised their children to do so also.

Shirley had many friends along the pathway of her life that were actually streets of gold leading to her final destination.

Shirley will be missed, there is no doubt about it.

Memories of her are different for each of us and that's what meaningful.

Shirley's journey has now begun in the greatest place ever! God, be ready, she will probably want to redecorate the "pearly gates".

With love.... Sheri

Sheri Sleep - April 30, 2024 at 07:21 PM

JH

We are so sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. I just loved to talk with her about the Lord. She had such a warmth about her. I was drawn to her and Don too. He was such a good man and he took good care of Shirley. Love you Don. I am so sorry but I know she is no longer bound by Alzheimer's disease...she is walking and talking with Jesus.

Jeanne and Bill Hartsuff - August 27, 2024 at 01:33 PM