

Leola May Karr Williams

May 22, 1937 ~ July 5, 2024

Leola May Karr Williams was born on May 22, 1937, in Plattville, IA, to Bulis William Karr and Erie Cleota Inman. She passed away peacefully on July 5th in Sandy, UT, at the age of 87 surrounded by her family.

Leola was a woman who loved her family deeply and brought joy to those around her. Those who knew Leola described her as a kind, playful, and nurturing individual who always had a smile on her face. Her laughter was infectious, and her presence could light up any room. Leola had a unique ability to make everyone feel special and loved, and her genuine interest in others' lives made her a cherished friend to many.

From a young age, Leola displayed a wide array of talents and passions. She had a beautiful singing voice and a deep love for music. Leola was also an accomplished seamstress and painter, creating works of art that reflected her vibrant spirit. Additionally, Leola enjoyed playing tennis, finding both joy and exercise in the game. However, her greatest love and joy came from being a mother and grandmother. She considered her seven grandchildren her greatest love and legacy, and they were the light of her life.

As a child, Leola enjoyed a close-knit relationship with her parents and brother. She spent her childhood playing outdoors, reading books, and developing her artistic talents. Her early years were filled with love, laughter, and the joy of discovery, setting the foundation for a life rich in love and creativity.

Leola graduated from West High School in Denver, CO in 1955. Years later, she attended Brigham Young University, where she earned a degree in elementary education in 1987. She displayed a natural affinity for teaching and had a profound love for children. Her classroom was a place of warmth, creativity, and joy, where every child felt valued and encouraged. Known for her patience and kindness, she left a lasting mark on generations of students. She believed in the potential of every child and worked tirelessly to ensure they all had the opportunity to succeed.

Leola's personal life was marked by love, resilience, and dedication. Her first marriage to McKinley Nance gave her one beloved daughter, Michelle Renae Nance. From Michelle, she was blessed with eight grandchildren - Hannah, Derrick, Trevor, Pieter, Amanda, Alexander, Taylor, and Nicholas Van Soolen. She went on an LDS mission to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, from 1989 to 1991, and then became a full-time caregiver for her grandchildren after her daughter tragically died from cancer.

Leola was always known to lovingly ask how everyone was doing and listen intently to the answer. Her compassion and empathy were boundless, and she made a lasting impact on all who knew her.

Leola is preceded in death by her daughter, Michelle Renae Nance Van Soolen; her brother, Donald Karr; her grandaughter, Hannah Van Soolen; and her grandson, Trevor Van Soolen. She is survived by six grandchildren, Derrick, Pieter, Amanda, Alex, Taylor, and Nicholas – who were the pride and joy of her life.

A viewing will be held prior to her funeral on Wednesday, July 10th, from 6-8 p.m. at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E 10600 S, Sandy, UT 84092. The memorial service to celebrate Leola's life will be held on Friday, July 12th, at 949 E 10600 S, Sandy, UT 84094, with the viewing from 10-11 a.m. and the memorial service from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Graveside and burial will take place at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E 10600 S, Sandy, UT 84092.

Leola will be remembered for her unwavering love, her boundless generosity, and her vibrant spirit. She touched the lives of many and leaves behind a legacy of kindness, love, and dedication to family. Her memory will forever be cherished by those who were fortunate enough to know her.

To watch a recording of the service, please click on the tab above that says "Watch Service" or follow this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Lj09-zjXR5l4sgEYN5R5Oc_6bFRR1R1e18uEyZm5T6-eSnkR3i_zTvyB9SXFiEkh.jHL9