



Olive L. Gray

February 22, 1919 - March 15, 2011

COLUMBIA, NH – Mrs. Olive L. Gray, 92, of Columbia, NH, passed away at her residence early on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, after a period of failing health and surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Manchester, NH, on February 22, 1919, a daughter to the late Henry and Blanche (Dix) Lawrence. She was raised in Farmington, NH, and graduated from Farmington High School in 1937. Olive went on to attend the Keene Teachers' College and earned her teaching degree in 1941.

Mrs. Gray's life was spent as an educator. She taught for four years at Stevens High School in Claremont, NH; for 13 years as a 7th and 8th grade teacher in Farmington, NH; at the Horace Street School in Dover, NH, from 1959-67; and at the Dover Jr. High School in Dover from 1967 until her retirement in 1983. In 1969, she established the library in the Dover Jr. High School and became its first librarian. She furthered her own education by taking graduate courses in library science at UNH. After her retirement, she joined the Strafford County Retired Teachers' Association.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Farmington since 1928, and was very active in her faith. Olive was an adult Bible studies teacher, a choir director, church organist, deaconess, a member of the missionary committee and a member of the church's gospel team. She also very much loved her congregation at the Independent Baptist Church in West Stewartstown, NH.

Mrs. Gray is survived by her husband of 33 years, Francis Gray of Columbia, NH; and numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, all of whom she adored, and who will all miss her dearly.

She is preceded in death by eight siblings, Abbott Lawrence, John Lawrence, Henry Lawrence, Arthur Lawrence, Charles Lawrence, Leroy Lawrence, Beatrice Lawrence, and Cecelia Moore.

Calling hours will be Thursday, March 17, 2011, from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook, NH. A funeral service will be held on Friday, March 18, at 11 a.m. at the Independent Baptist Church in West Stewartstown with Pastor Matt Coons officiating. A committal service will be at St. Brendan's Cemetery later in the spring.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Mrs. Gray may be made to one's choice of the Independent Baptist Church, Deacons' Fund, P.O. Box 281, West Stewartstown, NH 03597; or to the Northwoods Home & Hospice, 120 Main St., Suite 5, Colebrook, NH 03576.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH

Visitation

MAR 17. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH

Service

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Independent Baptist Church
U.S. Route 3, Washington St.
West Stewartstown, NH

Tribute Wall



“ Mrs.Gray was my 8th grade homeroom teacher at Horne St. School in Dover NH (1959-60). her brother Charles Lawrence was the best friend of my parents throughout the 1950s and '60s. I am sorry that I had not heard of her passing until now. she was a fine woman and a great teacher.##imported-begin##Robert Cohen##imported-end##

November 24, 2012 at 12:41 AM



“ Dear Francis and family,

Our deepest sympathy to all of you. Olive was such a special,loving person. We regret not having been able to see her these past years.

Our love and God Bless,

George and Roberta##imported-begin##Roberta and George Bell##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 09:30 AM



“ Please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of Olive. We are out of the area but wanted you to know that you are in our thoughts.##imported-begin##Garry, Marcia, Jeffrey & Ashlynn Parkhurst##imported-end##

March 18, 2011 at 08:32 PM



“ She was a great lady and I always enjoyed seeing her. Our sympathy to all of you. Sue and Fred##imported-begin##Sue Miller##imported-end##

March 18, 2011 at 06:39 PM



“ Uncle Francis, Auntie Olive was such a beautiful woman inside and out. I loved her beautiful smile that could light of a room. She will be missed by so many but will be in our hearts forever. It is the loving memories we have of her that will help us heal. Take care of yourself. Love, Debbie##imported-begin##Debbie Chagnon##imported-end##

March 18, 2011 at 06:35 PM



“ Thinking of you Francis, she was the best##imported-begin##Prudence##imported-end##

March 18, 2011 at 04:25 PM



“ Francis, We are so sorry to hear about Olive. She was such a special lady and we all feel so lucky to have known her. We will miss her cheerful smile and good conversation. We wish you peace and strength at this time.##imported-begin##Kristi, Maddy, and Spencer Smith##imported-end##

March 17, 2011 at 09:42 PM



“ Dear Francis and the rest of the family,
We are sorry to hear of the passing of Auntie Olive. She was a wonderful lady who enjoyed life to its fullest and tried to put a smile on everyone else's face constantly. I will miss burning her hotdogs at the family reunions. She will be dearly missed by many. All of our love and our condolences.
Dennis and Annette##imported-begin##Dennis & Annette Chagnon ##imported-end##

March 17, 2011 at 05:17 PM



“ Dear Mr. Gray,
You don't know how sorry I am for your loss. You were my absolute most favorite teacher. Over the years I have often thought about you; whether you ended up marrying Olive, where you were living, what you've been up to. And then while I had a few minutes to myself at work,{the Postal Srevice at Manchester, 30 years}, I came across Olive's obit. I asked myself if it could be. And then when I saw her maiden name, I immediately went to the bottom to see if you were around. My dragonlady boss said she couldn't let me have off to go up to pay my respects.I'm just glad to have thought of this and to drop you a line to tell you I'm thinking of you.All my sympathies to one of the greatest persons I've had the pleasure to know.
Your friend,
Rick Hebert##imported-begin##Rick Hebert##imported-end##

March 17, 2011 at 04:40 PM



“ Dear Francis We are so sorry to hear of Olive's passing. Roland and I are still in Florida but we will be thinking of you during this difficult time. With sincere sympathy, Patty and Roland##imported-begin##Patty Hart##imported-end##

March 17, 2011 at 04:02 PM



“ Frank,

My sincere condolences. I enjoyed eating lunch with you and Olive in the second floor library at the old junior high. Those lunches and conversations certainly made my transition into a new school setting much easier.

Bob Vachon DJH/DMS 1986-2003##imported-begin##bob vachon##imported-end##

March 17, 2011 at 11:41 AM



“ FRANCIS AND FAMILY,
SO VERY VERY SORRY TO LEARN OF THE PASSING OF OLIVE. SHE WAS SUCH A NICE NICE PERSON TO BE AROUND. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL. MAY YOUR WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF HER HELP YOU TO ENDURE THIS. IF WE CAN BE OF ANY HELP AT ALL IN ANY WAY WE ARE ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY.##imported-begin##JIM AND JANET BENNETT- GROVETON, NH##imported-end##

March 17, 2011 at 10:28 AM



“ Olive was a wonderful woman and will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Suzanne Routhier##imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 08:03 PM



“ Sorry for your Loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Beth Bissonnette##imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 07:43 PM



“ Mr. Gray,

I am so sorry to hear Mrs. Gray passed away. She was a very nice lady and was always smiling!! My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. She will be dearly missed.

Gayle###imported-begin##Gayle Caron Lord###imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 07:20 PM



“ *The last time i saw Anut Olive she had a big smille because se wos happy to see me.She naver got to se my kids but when i put up the pic my dauther sead to me how is that and i sead that is your anut olive and i begane to cry.Because i tole her thst anunt olive wose in haven with the angles like she is she is going to be missed.###imported-begin##Crystal Pruitt###imported-end##*

March 16, 2011 at 06:20 PM



“ *The last time I was with Auntie Olive she corrected me when I said she was my "Great" Aunt and very politely informed me that she was my "Grand" Aunt. I will take that! Everything about her was grand: Her wit, her smile, her love for everyone around her, and her ability to make everyone feel good no matter how sad they might be. I have wonderful memories of baking with her and even attending one of her classes when I was younger. Imagine sitting a the classroom and learning from this amazing woman! Actually, I guess we all did that in one way or another.*

I love you and I will miss you Auntie Olive ... and know that I will celebrate your life and all of the memories every day.###imported-begin##Donna Chagnon###imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 01:35 PM



“ *Olive was such a sweet, sweet lady I am so glad I got to know her. I will miss her and think of her often. Our best to you, Francis, Bern and Roseann###imported-begin##Roseann Walling###imported-end##*

March 16, 2011 at 11:25 AM



“ Francis, our deepest sympathy to you and other family members during this very difficult time. I had so many nice visits with both of you. Strange thing was yesterday I was actually thinking of you both, last year at this time you were both down here. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Love, Cindy and Robert###imported-begin##Cindy & Robert
Bissonnette###imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 11:14 AM



“ Auntie Olive was such a great Aunt, Woman and Friend I have so many childhood memories of just spending time with her. Every time I think of one of those memories it just brings a big smile across my face. I love you and miss you but I also know that you are one of the many angels that are looking down on us. You will be truly missed Love Yoy###imported-begin##Denise Novak###imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 09:33 AM



“ We will truly miss Olive and her amazing energy, her wit, and her thoughtfulness. What a gift! Many will mourn her loss but celebrate her life shared with great generosity to the end. Love and sincere sympathy, Rosalie&Ricky###imported-begin##Rosalie (Pinckney) Nelson and family###imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 07:23 AM



“ Our Deepest sympathy goes out to all of you in your time of sorrow. Olive was a very nice lady and was loved by many.
She will be missed by many.

Paula,Kyle, Patrick Walling###imported-begin##Paula Walling###imported-end##

March 15, 2011 at 10:07 PM



“ To Olive's family:

What a beautiful lady Olive was, inside and out! May you be comforted with all the wonderful memories of family and friends, and may the God of all comfort surround you during this time of deep loss and sorry. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

Lori (Parkhurst) and James MacDonald,

formerly of Columbia and Lemington##imported-begin##Lori Parkhurst Berry MacDonald##imported-end##

March 15, 2011 at 07:35 PM



“ Francis-

What sad news I heard early this morning. We all have so many wonderful memories of her, those will never leave us. Olive did so much for so many! I am sorry that we have to let her go. I am glad that she got to see Aly. As I held Aly today I explained to her that she has been blessed with one of the best angels any one could ask for :)

See you soon.

xoxo

Jenny##imported-begin##Jenny Hook##imported-end##

March 15, 2011 at 04:01 PM



“ Auntie Olive,

You will be missed so much, your smile, your laugh, your wit and your blessings are so dear to us. We love you and Uncle Francis so much.

Sharon, Skip, Jordie and Jake##imported-begin##Sharon Alleman##imported-end##

March 15, 2011 at 03:18 PM