



Anna Laura Long

September 21, 1918 - December 28, 2022

Anna Laura Long, a life-long resident of Lawrence County, passed away on December 28, 2022, at the age of 104. She was the daughter of James H. and Addie Justus of Lauratown, one of ten siblings.

She was pre-deceased by husband, George Edward England in 1943, and later by husband, James Gardner Long in 1991.

Survivors include daughter, Cynthia England Hicks (Ed) of Leawood, Kansas; a granddaughter, Laura Charlton (Peter) and great granddaughter, Olivia of Carlsbad, CA. She is also survived by her sister Helen Justus Wooley of Westland, MI, and many nieces and nephews.

Anna Laura was a retired teacher from Walnut Ridge, and was active in many professional organizations, including Delta Kappa Gamma and served in local, state and international organizations in her profession. She received numerous honors for excellence in teaching over her lengthy career.

She was a life-long Baptist, and member of the First Baptist Church where she served many years as superintendent of the Junior Department and a teacher in the Intermediate Department of the Training Union. She was also a member of the choir.

Shortly after WWII, she began her teaching career in local rural schools teaching in a one-room class, grades 1-4, while at the same time, working toward a B.S. in education at ASU. She was the first of her family to graduate college. She developed a reputation for being particularly adept with the younger students. In 1950 she was asked by Walnut Ridge superintendent of

schools, W.R. Rainwater, to become a kindergarten and first grade teacher. Where she taught with distinction for 37 years. Always a strong advocate for recognition that the earliest years of a child's education, when they need so much individual attention, often pre-determines a student's later success. Family was everything to Anna Laura. She doted on her "three girls" and hosted extended family on numerous Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations for 50 plus years. A good cook, her beef-vegetable soup, potato salad, fresh fruit cobblers, and most particularly Christmas divinity are not to be excelled. During her long retirement, always kept freshly baked cookies and brownies in stock, much to the delight of the neighborhood children. (She was also a dessert lover.)

Doubtless, her church friends, and her neighbors contributed greatly to her longevity. She will be remembered as patient, gracious, and loving person. Her family is particularly grateful for her caretaker, Sharon Goodwin, and Chris Thompson of Williams University, for their attentions these last years.

The family gives thanks to the nurses and staff at Lawrence Memorial Hospital and especially Dr. Paul Vellozo, for their loving care these last three weeks.

Funeral Services will be Tuesday, January 3, 2022, at 11 A.M. in the First Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge with Bro. Jake Geunrich officiating.

Pallbearers will be Joe Justus, Sam Allen, Charles Snapp, Glenn Murphy, Tom Moore, John Bland, Jerry Allison and Jerry Gibbens. Interment will follow in the Lawrence Memorial Park.

Visitation will be from 10 A.M. till 11 A.M. Tuesday.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First Baptist Church or Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

Cemetery Details

Lawrence Memorial Park

Colonial Dr.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Walnut Ridge
317 SW Front St.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Walnut Ridge
317 SW Front St.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Tribute Wall



“ *Anna Laura Long*

January 29, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Cynthia, sadness pierced my heart when I looked at the newspaper and saw that Anna Laura had passed away. I first knew her when she taught 1-4th grades at Clear Lake, a two-room schoolhouse. I was a pupil in the 5-8th room. I admired her so! Then, in 1970, when my parents, Almus and Cratie Forehand celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, she and Gardner were there and he took the pictures for the occasion. Although, I saw her through the years, the picture you had published of her is exactly the way I remember her looking. My sympathy to you and all your family. Joyce Forehand Holder*

Joyce Forehand Holder - January 04, 2023 at 12:29 PM



Afterthought: My parents' anniversary was Jan. 4, 1970, fifty three years ago today.

Joyce Forehand Holder - January 04, 2023 at 04:01 PM



“ *Mrs Long was my first grade teacher, along with my sister Kayla. She was a wonderful person and will be missed by the whole community for her dedication, prayers to her family.*



Gayla Ellis Warden - January 03, 2023 at 10:01 AM

CV

“ Mrs. Annie was a long time friend of our families. We have so many memories of spending time at their lake house and playing the card game TONK. She was a great teacher, tutor, Piano lesson teacher and all around Amazing woman! Spending time during the Holidays she always had the best chocolate candies. Rest in peace Beautiful lady and give Daddy a kiss from me!
The Vaccari Family

Christy Vaccari-Robinson - January 03, 2023 at 09:38 AM



SarahShe
Teague

“ Mrs. Long was my and my big brother Jay's first grade teacher. I remember bringing an apple to her and wanting to somehow halve it and by sheer determination she took that little apple, wrenched it, and with her bare hands actually halved that apple! A trivial action perhaps and seemingly impossible but I have never forgotten it-a tribute to what can be done with persistence. GOD bless Mrs. Long's memory, her family, the thousands of students she influenced. ❤️

SarahShell Teague - December 31, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Anna Laura Long.



December 31, 2022 at 03:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Anna Laura Long.*



December 31, 2022 at 11:39 AM



“ *She loved her friends, neighbors, and students so very completely. She lived with much grace and beauty. She even loved scoundrels and rascals who couldn't help but long for her motherly affection and behave their best in her presence. They never fooled her, and she loved them anyway. Her feminine power to form our community exceeded that of our best community leaders because she nurtured good character in its citizens. Indeed, this is a time of mourning. Walnut Ridge was fortunate to have such a precious and gracious daughter dwelling within her for so long.*

Jayme Jon Caspall - December 31, 2022 at 11:00 AM



“ *Mrs. Long taught both our daughters, Julie Gibbens and Sarah Gibbens Glenn in first grade. They loved her. Gardner was also a great neighbor and friend. Barbara admired and respected her Walnut Ridge Public School colleague. Rest In Peace, dear friend. Jerry and Barbara Gibbens*

Jerry Gibbens - December 31, 2022 at 10:56 AM

GK

“ Gary and Pat Kearby We will keep you in our prayers



Gary Kearby - December 31, 2022 at 10:50 AM

KL

“ She was a loving Aunt. She was always happy to see my family. When we came down to visit from Michigan. My grandmother her sister Helen will miss her tremendously.

Kelley Wooley Lyle - December 31, 2022 at 06:04 AM

DJ

“ God bless my Kindergarten/1st Grade teacher. I knew her as Mrs. England back then (1955).

David Johnson - December 31, 2022 at 05:50 AM

DB

Anna Laura was a true lady and so is Cynthia and I am sure her daughter and granddaughter. They had a real Role model. Anna Laura was one of the kindest ladies I have ever known. RIP. Dee Dowell Buffington

dee Buffington - December 31, 2022 at 03:36 PM

DJ

“ David Johnson lit a candle in memory of Anna Laura Long



David Johnson - December 31, 2022 at 05:47 AM

AM

“ Ms long was my first grade teacher . I am now 62 and she remembered my name everytime I saw her . She was my favorite teacher ever. I love you ms long . May you rest in peace

Ann Morse - December 31, 2022 at 12:26 AM

DB

“ She was my first grade teacher. It was the 1967/68 school year. I fell in love with school that year because of her!! She was a beautiful and loving lady!!❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏



Debbie Bookout - December 30, 2022 at 11:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Anna Laura Long.



December 30, 2022 at 05:45 PM