



Virginia Lea Russell

October 12, 1933 - December 19, 2025

Virginia Lea Russell, age 92, of Gurnee Il, passed away on Friday, December 19th, 2025 in Owasso Ok. She was born on October 12th, 1933 in Dongola, IL and married Gene Russell on March 10, 1951 in Waukegan, Illinois.

Virginia, along with her husband, lived in Waukegan for 62 years until the time of her husband's death in 2013. Virginia continued to live in Waukegan until 2020. She then moved to Owasso, Ok.

Virginia worked for many years as a secretary for the Tannery and St. Theresa hospital until her retirement. She loved to garden, can pickles and make jelly. She was a wonderful cook famous for her cole slaw, macaroni salad, strawberry shortcake and pies that her family enjoyed. She loved the holidays especially Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many of the traditions she instilled in her children are now enjoyed by her grandchildren.

One of the things that we all found amazing about mom was her ability to master any instrument with no training. She played the accordion, piano, organ, guitar and harpsicord.

Mom was a member of the Church of Christ. She attended the Waukegan Church of Christ with her family for over 25 years. Once she moved to Gurnee, she attended the Round Lake Church of Christ.

Survivors include three sons: Mike (Neva) Russell of Van Alstyne, TX; Jeff (Sharon) Russell of Owasso, OK and Phillip Russell.

Virginia and Gene were blessed with eleven grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

Virginia had 2 sisters and 1 brother: Bonnie Miles of Woodrver, Illinois, Genevieve Eppers of Waukegan, Illinois and Leland Lingle of Dongola, Illinois. She was preceded in death by her husband Gene Russell; parents Bertha Lingle(Beggs), Lester Lingle and 2 sisters and brother. Virginia will be laid to rest with her husband at Highland Memorial Park in Libertyville, Illinois.

Tribute Wall

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“*Mrs. Russell was a kind and caring person. She was always "bubbly" and always had a smile and always made me feel welcomed in her home. My thoughts and prayers are for her beautiful family during this difficult time.*

Doug Lewis - December 23, 2025 at 06:15 PM