



Lila McCullen

August 6, 1950 - September 29, 2023

Lila McCullen of Grand Island FL, a compassionate and selfless soul, passed away at the age of 73, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering love and support for those in need. She departed this world on 29 September 2023, surrounded by family and friends who cherished her.

Born in Scottsburg, IN on 6 August 1950 as Mabel Lila McCullen to her loving parents Beulah Bertha Johnson of Indianapolis, IN and William Truman McCullen of Blackshear, GA , “Cookie” lived a life defined by her boundless generosity and resilience. Her journey was one of triumph over personal trauma and profound sacrifice, a testament to the strength of the human spirit. Cookie was known far and wide for her open heart and welcoming home. She offered solace to countless young people who found themselves in need of a place to go, an ear to lend, or a shoulder to cry on. Her doors were always open, and her warm embrace made everyone feel like family. She had an extraordinary ability to provide not only shelter but also unconditional love and understanding.

An adoring mother, Cookie poured her heart and soul into raising and loving her daughters Misti Dawn Burns of Grand Island, FL, Kelly Ann Steffee of Winter Park, FL, and her son Joshua Ryan Burns of Toms River, NJ. Her unwavering love and support were a constant source of strength for them. She instilled in her children the values of compassion, kindness, and

resilience, which they carry forward as a tribute to her memory.

Cookie is survived by her two daughters, her son, her brother William Parmalee McCullen of Mooresville, IN, a sister Hazel Marie Carlson of Tavares, FL, her beloved cousin Cheryl McCullen Mann of Tusculumbia, AL; 7 grandchildren: Brice Tucker, Caleb Cameron, Conner Cameron, Olivia Steffee, Liam Steffee, Declan Steffee and Airi Burns. She is also survived by many of the children she opened up her heart and home to including: Steven Steffee (husband of Kelly) , Emiri Burns (wife of Joshua), Carla McCullen Griffin, Dawn Marie Hales, Jason Mahaney, Mikael Bellander, Marek Jurko, David Kernell, Kathy Mayhugh, Donnie Mayhugh, David Miller, Terry Miller, Rodney Frasier, Steven Knieriem, Ryan Trandell and others who had the privilege of knowing her as "Mom." She was preceded in death by her father (1958), mother (1992), and her oldest brother Charles David McCullen (2019), and granddaughter Sutton Steffee (2015).

Her legacy of love and generosity will live on in the hearts of all those she touched. Her life reminds us of the power of forgiveness, the capacity for love, and the strength of the human spirit to overcome even the greatest of challenges. In her passing, we find solace in the knowledge that her legacy of love and compassion will continue to inspire us all.

A memorial service will be held at 12 noon on October 14, 2023 at the First Baptist Church of Umatilla in Umatilla, FL. In lieu of flowers the family suggests purchasing a memorial tree here on the Beyers Funeral Home's website to be planted in her memory.

Though she may be gone from our sight, Cookie's spirit will forever be with us, guiding us to live our lives with the same boundless love and kindness that she exemplified throughout her remarkable journey. Rest in peace, dear mother. You will be deeply missed, but your love and legacy will forever shine

brightly in our hearts.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **14**. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Umatilla
550 Hatfield Drive
Umatilla, FL 32784

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Sheila M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lila McCullen.

Sheila M. - October 15, 2023 at 05:44 PM

DK

“ Cookie was my American mom and my kids' American grandmother. Always taking on life with love, generosity and a great sense of humor. Mom and her family took me into their life, and by doing so played a great part in making me the person I am today. She had the ability to always know when to cheer you up with a joke or an uplifting comment and she was always there when needed.

Mom always told me we should meet more often as "none of us is getting any younger". Even though some years have passed since we last met in person, we have always kept in touch online, for holidays and birthdays or just for a quick hello.

It is with great sadness we learned of Mom's passing and we as a family have reflected on it a lot during the past couple of weeks. We will always love and miss our American mom and grandmother and she will forever be in our hearts and thoughts.

Love Always,

Your Swedish family
David, Kristina, Melvin, Isak and Aron.

David Kernell - October 14, 2023 at 06:14 AM

KS

you were her everything just as us, We love you and your family forever. You will always be our Dawid, and our brother. □ it's up to us 4 to carry on the legacy she taught us

Kelly Steffee - October 16, 2023 at 05:54 PM

DK

“ *David K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lila McCullen.*

David K. - October 14, 2023 at 05:50 AM

DM

“ *Cookie always seemed to have a smile on her face and a great attitude, even with a very full house at the time..down to earth, easy to talk to..good Mother to her kids, and stray ones..I know she's missed dearly and my condolences , for what it's worth, go out to her kids.*



Don Mayhugh - October 10, 2023 at 10:30 PM

MI

Thank you Donnie!

Misti - October 12, 2023 at 03:47 PM

HG

“ *The faculty and staff of the HMH School of Nursing and Wellness at Georgian Court send our deepest condolences.*

HMH School of Nursing and Wellnesst GCU - October 07, 2023 at 07:38 AM

MI

Thank you so much for your sentiments and being so good to my brother.

Misti - October 12, 2023 at 03:49 PM

KS

thank you for your generosity and helping us honor our mother

Kelly Steffee - October 16, 2023 at 05:55 PM

TA

“ Theresa A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lila McCullen.

Theresa A. - October 07, 2023 at 07:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lila McCullen.

October 06, 2023 at 11:49 AM

AT

“ I will truly miss the continuous feel of such love and comfort that I always felt from momma Cookie. Her “squeeze tights” were the best !❤️ She will forever be in my heart as well as so many others !
Love you Momna- Alli

Alli Triplett - October 06, 2023 at 10:25 AM

MI

Thank you Alli!!! She loves you SOOO MUCH!!! Her other daughter <3

Misti - October 12, 2023 at 03:50 PM

KS

momma loved her some Alli! so do !!

Kelly Steffee - October 16, 2023 at 05:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lila McCullen.

October 04, 2023 at 09:22 PM



“ To my "Madre" as I called her.... From the moment you held me at my birth to the moment I held your hand as you took your last breath, I have felt your strength & unwavering love. EVERYDAY, I as your daughter have been so very proud of you and to be yours. You are the strongest soul I have ever known, and I drew strength from you. You gave love unconditionally, you persevered through life and it's twists and turns. You gave of your last dollars and opened your home to others that needed love and guidance. To have such a soul as you as a prime example of love, honor and caring for others is such a blessing! Kelly, Joshua & I and your grandchildren have been blessed to have you as ours. I rejoice knowing that you are in the love and light of GOD and reuniting with family and friends that awaited you. I keep our love, connection & memories in my heart forever. Love never dies! I will keep our adventure plans going for the rest of my days, and I will see you again! I "Nub" you Madre!! "BUZZZZ!!"<3 ALWAYS & FOREVER!!!!
~Misti Dawn



Misti Engle - October 04, 2023 at 01:16 PM

NB

I did not know your Mom, but from your description she sounds like she was a lovely person. I pray God will comfort you during this difficult time. I am deeply sorry for your loss. - Naomi Blocker

Naomi Blocker - October 06, 2023 at 08:09 AM

KS

“ Momma the moment you took your last breathe was the moment the wind was knocked out of me. Thank you for teaching me how to live with question, and teaching all 3 of us what true mothers love is. We were blessed to be able to call you Momma. Blessed to be chosen to be yours. You are loved beyond measure and missed beyond words. Please take care of my babygirl, I know she was waiting there to meet you on the other side. BUZZZZ

Kelly Steffee - October 04, 2023 at 10:26 AM

KS

“ Momma, September 29, 2023 will forever be the day the breathe was knocked out of me. I will forever be grateful God chose me to be your daughter. Thank you for teaching me the importance of family, love and forgiveness. The only person I know who loved so fiercely and was was always more worried about others, and put everyone else before yourself. You taught me to fight no matter what. You taught me resilience in the face of trauma and pain, character and most of all how to love others. The love you had for myself, Misti and Joshua, Steve, and Emiri (and all the kids you helped raise and continued to raise until you last days)as well as your grand babies will forever live in all of us and we will continue that legacy you created in each other, and them. I've never been more sad and happiness at the same time. Knowing you are there with Sutton, taking care of her, she has her grandma now, that's the one think that brings me solace. I love you so much Momma. I will spend everyday loving the way you did! BUZZZZZZZZZ



Kelly Steffee - October 04, 2023 at 10:22 AM

JB

“ The love you showed Misti, Kelly, and me will not be forgotten but will be forever with us as we learn from your example of unconditional love and affection for our own children. I will miss you forever mom. It feels like the light in my life has gone. Though it is hard, I will work everyday to be the man you taught me to be and to make you proud of who I have become until it is my time to join you in the Kingdom of Heaven. I love you, mom.

Joshua Burns

Joshua Burns - October 04, 2023 at 09:25 AM

DS

What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful woman! Cookie was definitely of a kind and her smile and kindness is what I remember the most. The last time I saw Cookie was at the Class of '71's 50th reunion with Ellen. She had so much fun with all of us youngins! Rest easy my friend in Jesus' loving arms! 🙏❤️🙏

Debbie Chambliss Stivender - October 04, 2023 at 12:47 PM

KS

thank you Debbie ☐

Kelly Steffee - October 16, 2023 at 05:58 PM