



## Kitty R. Severn

March 24, 1925 - March 7, 2024

Kitty (Velma Ruth) Severn

Surrounded by her loving family at home, Mom left us on Thursday, March 7, 2024 after a full life of 98 years, 7 months. She was the matriarch of our family and all will miss her dearly. We will hold her in our hearts forever. Kitty is also greatly missed by the 18 year old family chihuahua Cisco.

She was born in Joplin, Missouri on September 24, 1925 to Ollie and Lucy Blanche (Reed) Markham. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, her loving husband of 64 years, Earl "Dean" Severn. Kitty and Dean were childhood neighbors and later were married after World War II.

She was a very vibrant outgoing person who never met a stranger. Very community minded, she was loved by so many. As a young woman, she and her husband Dean owned and operated a small country store at Belleville in Joplin, Missouri. She was very active in her local church and was a Sunday school teacher.

She also was a popular troop leader in Girl Scouts with her daughters and when they moved to the country, she became involved in the local 4-H with all four of her children. She was a lifetime member of the Missouri Extension Club where she taught home skills and helped many in the community that were in need.

Kitty worked at many places during her lifetime. Among her favorites were Sears and Wilders Steakhouse in Joplin. Later she worked in Neosho, Missouri for McClintock's IGA Grocery and also McGinty's Department Store. Coming out of retirement, she and Dean worked alongside her daughter and husband who ran the Bon Appetit catering business for many years.

She was a fantastic cook, a Jeopardy fan who knew ALL the answers, wrote beautiful poetry, loved music and was a wonderful correspondent writing daily cards and letters to a large circle of family and friends. She found peace and strength in nature and often wrote poems about the beauty and serenity she found outdoors.

She is survived by:

Three daughters, Cheri Allen, Lana Severn (Scott Carter), Ginger Grum (Joseph) and one son, Alan Severn (Bonnie).

Seven grandchildren, Shannon Phillips (Doug), Bill Allen, Samantha Carter, Kristina Brown (Keith), Diana Grum, Bobby Severn (Katarina) and Alyssa Severn.

Seven Great-Grandchildren: Ashley, Noah, Joy, Tabitha, Faith, Katie and

Rebekah.

Mom will be remembered by her wit, humor and straightforward unfiltered opinions. If you met Kitty, chances are you will never forget her. A memorial service will be held 3 pm April 12, 2024 at Forest Park Church, 725 South Highview Avenue, Joplin, Missouri, 64801, reception to follow. Friends and family are welcome to share a memory online at Kitty Severn's tribute at [MidlandCremation.com](https://MidlandCremation.com).

In lieu of flowers, and in memory of her beloved husband, please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association. Your donations will make a difference in the lives of many by supporting people, research and care and are tax deductible.

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ Sweet kitty brought so much joy and laughter into my life! Such a sweet innocent soul. We had a lot of laughs I’m so glad to have been able to care for you the time that I had! You will for sure be missed!

jessica comer - April 11, 2024 at 08:03 PM

TF

“ The Valentine Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kitty R. Severn.



The Valentine Family - April 11, 2024 at 11:28 AM

TF

“ The Valentine Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kitty R. Severn.

The Valentine Family - April 11, 2024 at 11:28 AM

CS

“ I”m especially sorry to hear of your mother’s passing. 😊  
I know that you and your family have great memories, to keep her alive, in your hearts.  
She was a “Fire-Cracker”!! Never, to be forgotten...  
- Caine Starelli (Lana & Scott’s neighbor)

Caine Starelli - March 29, 2024 at 09:14 PM

LS

“Hold a sweet moment in your hand -  
(Fingers tight - it slips like burning sand!)

*Moments are so few - grab it when you can.  
You'll find it rare as can be.*

*We only have those good moments  
- between you and me.*

...  
*(We need to live in the moment!)*  
by Kitty Markham Severn, 2020

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**Lana Severn** - March 26, 2024 at 11:41 AM

CA

“ Mom and Dad with her parents Blanche and Ollie Markham.



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**Cheri Allen** - March 22, 2024 at 09:36 AM

CA

“ Celebrating her 92nd birthday in California by walking the beach with her cane! Not bad she was so happy we both love the ocean so much!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 09:26 PM

CA

“ Mom and DAD enjoying our little Park down in the valley by our spring!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 09:19 PM

CA

“ Her faithful companion Cisco! Enjoying the sunshine!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 09:14 PM

CA

“ Sweet treat on her 97th birthday with her family all around!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 09:07 PM

CA

“ They came and shared Mother's Day with me in the hospital such a sweet surprise!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 08:50 PM

CA

“ Mama kicking up her heels at Christmas time. She was having a ball that night!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 08:46 PM

CA

“ She loved being in front of the fireplace!



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 08:39 PM

CA

“ *In California sharing her birthday with her daughter Lana!*



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 11:49 AM

CA

“ *A very sweet anniversary shop of mom and dad!*



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**Cheri Allen** - March 21, 2024 at 11:18 AM

LS

“ *Mom and I said a lot of goodbyes over many, many years, as I live in California. This is a photo my sister, Ginger, took at Joplin airport. So hard to say that last goodbye. Mom, I love you and miss you so much.*



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**Lana Severn** - March 16, 2024 at 06:57 PM

GG

“ Those of you who know about her deaf children, let it be known that she made tremendous sacrifices to see us while at MO School for the Deaf in Fulton MO. She also was quite popular among the students there. Those are among my special memories of my mom of my whole school life. Thanks for making me who I am & for teaching me to talk & read before I went there. Love you too much! - Ginger

Ginger Grum - March 15, 2024 at 06:11 PM

LS

Sister #3, thank you for sharing that. ❤️

Lana Severn - March 16, 2024 at 01:07 AM

LG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Grotheer - March 15, 2024 at 04:52 PM

CA

I grew up thinking my mother looked like a movie star! She was a lovely lady inside and out!

Cheri Allen - March 18, 2024 at 10:42 AM

JB

“ I always enjoyed visiting with Kitty she was like an Aunt to me! Loved going to her house when I was young! We would hunt morel mushrooms and eat them! A great memory I have! She was a great lady will miss her! Love Jeanne Babb

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**Jeanne Babb** - March 13, 2024 at 05:58 PM

  
Richard  
McNally

“ Velma you were always so kind. You and Dean let dad & I come out whenever we wanted. Shot my 1st squirrel on your property. You were so excited to see it. God bless you & your family.

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**Richard McNally** - March 12, 2024 at 09:28 PM

JB

“ Condolences to the Severn family. My sister remember Kitty as a loving and caring beautiful lady. Joyce and Jean Lutze


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**Joyce Booher** - March 12, 2024 at 07:00 PM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Alan Severn** - March 11, 2024 at 06:23 PM

  
Kristy  
Coffman

I love this ! Keeping you all in prayer. Was a pleasure being a lil piece of your life doll. Thank you. See you star side! Xoxo

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**Kristy Coffman** - March 11, 2024 at 09:41 PM

MH

*Prayers and comfort for the family of Kitty. She was a sweet, special lady, and loved life to the fullest.*

**Mary Steele Hensley** - March 12, 2024 at 09:32 AM



*Very Special Lady and Neighbor who will always be remembered for her kindness and wit. Thoughts are with all of Kitty's Family*

**Greg Hickman** - March 13, 2024 at 11:26 AM

LB

*Loved meeting Kitty. Her enthusiasm for life was so contagious leaving a print on those whose hearts she touched. The picture of her holding the butterfly is so apt. Lifting the family up in prayer for comfort. May memories of good times shared, your faith and the support of others bring you comfort now and in the days ahead.*

**Linda L. Blass** - March 14, 2024 at 12:04 AM