

Mary Lou Gibbs

October 11, 1929 - September 8, 2026



Mary Lou Edwards Gibbs, age 96, of Foundation Park, Manhattan, Kansas, died September 8, 2026.

Mary Lou was born October 11, 1929 in Emporia, Kansas the daughter of Richard and Louise (Deputy) Edwards. She graduated from Emporia High School in 1947 and Kansas State University in 1952. While at KSU, Mary Lou was an International Farm Youth Exchange Student to United Kingdom in 1950. Mary Lou and her brothers attended KSU together. The three of them operated a dairy farm to help the family financially, milking the cows daily before and after classes. The dairy was purchased by their father and was located on Lake Elbo Road. At KSU, Mary Lou received a B.S. in Home Economics and was a member of Clovia, a residential 4-H scholarship house.

Mary Lou and her entire family were active 4-H-ers, even during their collegiate years. Continuing in her professional life, Mary Lou worked tirelessly for 30 years as an Extension Home Economist in Greenwood County and later Pottawatomie County. Mary Lou retired in 1995. She was a member of the National Association of Extension Home Economists, Epsilon Sigma Pi Extension Association, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Mary Lou was a very active community member. In addition to her work in Extension and 4-H, she belonged to the Olsburg Lutheran Church and served on the church council. She was the treasurer of the Pottawatomie-Waubansee Regional Library and she was a member of the Olsburg Family and Community Education.

Mary Lou married Patrick Lee Gibbs on September 20, 1953. They had 3 children, Rick Gibbs (Jane, deceased), Susan Jenkins (Jim), and Kelly Gillespie (Gary) all of Olsburg. She has eight grandchildren, Richard Gibbs, Ryan Gibbs, Jeana Poulter, Aaron Jenkins, Ruby Jenkins, Travis Gillespie and Jennifer Hummel. She was also the proud grandmother of numerous great and great great-grandchildren. Mary Lou is survived by her brother Bob Edwards (Westmoreland) and her sister Mardy Herbster (Sabetha), as well as many nieces and nephews. Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Bill.

Cremation is planned with a memorial service at Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home in Manhattan with Pastor Keith Weins, officiating on September 23 at 1:00p.m..

Interment will be a private ceremony at a later date in Olsburg Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to either the Pottawatomie County 4-H Foundation or the Olsburg Lutheran Church sent in care of Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. ymflfuneralhome.com