

Bernice Christine Brighton



11/21/1925 - 07/03/2026

Bernice Christine Brighton, 100, of Manhattan, Kansas, passed away Friday, July 3. She was born November 21, 1925, near Osage City, Kansas, to John Delbert and Nettie Lafferty.

Bernice attended Osage City High School and the College of Emporia. In 1946, she took her first teaching job in Milford, Kansas, where she met her future husband, Dale Eugene Brighton. Their only son, Van, was born in 1948.

Dale's work with the Union Pacific Railroad took the family to various cities in Kansas, including Irving, Frankfort, Kansas City and Manhattan. Bernice taught elementary school in each community, most often fifth grade, including at Ogden and Lee Elementary schools. She received USD 383's Excellence in Teaching Award in 1981 and retired in 1982.

Bernice was a devoted grandmother to Kristin and Michael and, after Dale's death in 1990, served through Trinity Presbyterian Church and several community organizations. At Meadowlark, where she lived her last eight years, she lived by the motto, "Bloom where you're planted."

She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Jan Brighton; granddaughter, Kristin Brighton and her husband, Benjamin Ward; grandson, Michael and his wife, Heather; and great-grandchildren, Ryan, Katharine, Mary and Andrew. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale; son, Van; parents; and brothers, Harold and Glen Lafferty.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 11, at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Burial will precede the service at 9 a.m. at Sunrise Cemetery. Family and friends also may pay their respects at Irvin Parkview Funeral Home on Friday, July 10, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The family will not be present.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church or Meadowlark. The family thanks the staff of Ascension Via Christi and Meadowlark for caring for her in her final days. A full version of this obituary is available at www.irvinparkview.com