

Thermopolis, WY

Phyllis Merle (Giles) Laflin, 82, of Thermopolis, Wyoming, passed away on July 10, 2016 at the Thermopolis Rehab and Care Center.

A memorial services to be held on Monday, August 1st, 2016 at 2 pm at the Atchison United Methodist Church with The Rev. Nancy J Kollhoff officiating. Interment will take place at the Sunset Memory Gardens, Atchison, KS. Family will receive friends on Sunday, July 31st, 2016, from 5-7 pm at the Atchison United Methodist Church, Atchison, KS. The Becker-Dyer-Stanton Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. Memorials can be made to the Back Pack Buddies program of Atchison, KS, and may be sent in care of the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at www.beckerdyer.com.

She was born on October 15, 1933 in Red Oak, Iowa, the daughter of the late Wayne Michael Giles and the late Dorothy Lucinda (Bridge) Giles. She grew up in Emerson, Iowa and graduated from Emerson High School in 1951. She then fulfilled her childhood dream and attended the Jennie Edmundson School of Nursing in Council Bluffs, Iowa and graduated in 1954 as a registered nurse. During her career as a nurse, Phyllis worked in a variety of settings to include public health, hospital nursing, women's health, skilled nursing, home health, hospice, and after her retirement in 1995, as a substitute school nurse in Atchison, KS. She loved nursing, and her patients loved her. In her spare time, Phyllis volunteered for hospice, to work in food and clothing banks, as well as several church organizations where she lived. She was an avid reader, a member of a reading club, and she had multiple library cards to sustain this passion. Phyllis loved singing and listening to music, and participated in the Sweet Adeline singing group in the 1970's. She also participated in the Red Hat Society, Diabetic Association activities, and the Bendena Homeowners Association. Most of all, Phyllis enjoyed spending time with her family. On March 4, 1955, she married Jerry Maurice Laflin in Red Oak, Iowa, and he preceded her in death on January 31, 2010. They were married for 54 years, and lived in Fairbanks, AK, Brookville, KS, Salina, KS, Clovis, NM, Manhattan, KS, and then moved to Bendena, KS after Jerry's retirement. In 2014, she moved to Thermopolis, WY, and lived at the Pioneer Home there and later at the Thermopolis Rehab and Care Center.

She is survived by two sons, Michael Ray (Karen Sue) Laflin of Oblong, IL, and Rea David (Karen Jo) Laflin of Atchison, KS, one daughter, Rachel Elizabeth (Vern) Miller of Thermopolis, WY, ten grandchildren, Anne, Logan, Megan, Brad, & Diana Laflin, Amanda, Justin, Vernon, Sean & Ryan Miller, and fourteen great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother, Larry Franklin McColleston (Michele) of Warrensburg, MO, and a sister, Janet Kay McColleston Papen Bland (Jerry), of Clever, MO, along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was also preceded in death by her father, Wayne Michael Giles, on May 27, 1935, her mother, Dorothy Lucinda Bridge Giles McColleston on July 6, 2007, and her stepfather, Basil Franklin McColleston, on September 5, 1987.

