



## Gloria Wolbach

August 1, 1925 - June 27, 2014

Wolbach, Gloria

Gloria (Gray) Wolbach, 88, of Grand Island died on Friday, June 27, 2014 at her home.

Services will be at 10:30 am on Monday, July 7th, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Rev. Robert Lewis will officiate. Burial will follow in the Grand Island City Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Sunday, July 6th at All Faiths Funeral Home.

Gloria was born on August 1, 1925, in McPherson, Kansas to Lucien and Betty (Chamberlain) Gray.

There are no survivors of her immediate family. Those left to cherish her memory are her dear friends, Tom and Kim Dinsdale, Janie Watson, her nieces and nephews, Sam and Linda Dreher of North Carolina; David and Lydia Dreher and Mary Carolyn and Jim Wise of Kansas City, Missouri; Ann and Steve Richardson of Hutchinson, Kansas; Dorothy Gray of Wichita, Kansas; two stepchildren, Louise (Peppy) Bahr of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and William V. Wolbach of Kansas City, Missouri.

She was welcomed into heaven by her parents; son Spencer; daughter, Betty; husbands, Robert F. Pocednik and S. N. (Bud) Wolbach, and brother, Dr. Lucien Gray.

Gloria graduated from Kansas University in 1947 with a degree in Theater Arts. She married and moved to Salina, Kansas, where she and her husband

owned an FM radio station. After the birth of her two children, she became a fulltime mother. Along with her enjoyment of home, husband and children, she became involved in many community activities. She helped found the St. John's Hospital Pediatric League. After many charity balls and home talent shows, the Pediatrics Center was established. She also co-founded the Salina Charities League which raised money for worthy and needed causes for the city. Thus was created the Salina Charities Golf Tournament. She was also very active in her church and was the first woman ever elected to St. John's Lutheran Church Council.

After the death of her husband in 1969 and surviving breast cancer, she became involved in counseling other women diagnosed with breast cancer. Two years after the death of her husband, her 17-year-old son Spencer was killed in an automobile accident. Despite this loss, she became very involved in being a busy mother with her daughter, Betty; she rejoined the workforce, becoming a real estate agent.

In 1978 she married S. N. (Bud) Wolbach, moved to Grand Island and learned to say "Go Big Red." Over the next 28 years she and Bud did lots of traveling, entertaining and worked diligently in civic and church activities. Bud passed away in 2006.

Gloria served two terms on St. Stephens Episcopal Church Vestry and two terms on Grand Island Community Foundation Board. She was involved with Crane Meadows, Arthritis Foundation, Heartland Events Center, Stuhr Museum, and was instrumental in building "Kids Kingdom," and she founded the S. N. Bud and Gloria charitable foundation founded in 2013. In 1997 she founded an organization known as AOK Ladies (Acts of Kindness). The 80 women members have only one purpose and that is to spread kindness. Their motto is "Kindness can be just as contagious as violence and hate."

Gloria received numerous awards, including: in 1995, Goodwill Volunteer of the Year; in 1997, Heartland United Way Citizen of the Year; in 1998, Bud and Gloria were named Grand Island Independent Man and Woman of the Year. This was the only time the Independent selected a couple for this honor. 1999,

Outstanding Fund Raiser of the Year, selected by the National Society Fund Raising Executives (NSFR); 2011, Bud and Gloria were selected to be in the Grand Island Community College Hall of Fame. Gloria and Bud were Grand Marshal at the Harvest of Harmony Parade.

Gloria chose happiness and doing for others as a way of life. She often said, "One of my happiest and greatest blessings was when God gave me 28 special years being married to Bud Wolbach."

Memorials may be given to Grand Island Community Foundation, Stuhr Museum or to St. Stephens Episcopal Church.

# Cemetery Details

## **Grand Island City Cemetery**

Grand Island, NE

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gloria Wolbach*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Truly my heartfelt deepest condolence goes out to all who loved this amazing women who I had not been bless to know before her death. However indeed touched by such a bright beacon of light that will continue to empower, grow and be kind to each other not only in Grand Island, Nebraska but throughout America! While I was researching for help online and just the right words to write a letter in hopes of diffusing a hateful escalating situation. I found an article in the GI Independent of Gloria's "ACTS OF KINDNESS" October month which has given me a positive idea here in Brooklyn, NYC*

*God Bless All of You & Yours, Mrs. Rosalie Estrada Rodd With Lots Of Love ... My Motto!*



**Rosalie Estrada Rodd** - October 10, 2014 at 01:37 PM

LD

“ My favorite thing about Gloria was her wonderful sense of humor and her sincere concern for those less fortunate than she was. Anyone who ever heard her story about being in a (minor) plane crash in Alaska with Bud in the Tundra area.....Bud got out of the plane and was taking pictures while others were still in the plane. Her retelling of the story was hilarious! That picture was on their family room wall. Her spirit of kindness toward others shone well beyond the AOK Ladies and the many organizations for whom she volunteered. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR for the state of Nebraska several years ago..... A well-deserved honor. We'll miss her spirit and her smile! Lonnie and Annette Davis

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**Lonnie Davis** - July 06, 2014 at 09:56 PM

CL

“ I enjoy being her household helper for many years. I always appreciated her kindness and concern for me. I especially liked that she was an honest and fair employer. I will miss her greatly.  
Charlene Levering

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**Charlene Levering** - July 06, 2014 at 04:55 PM

SF

“ Our deepest sympathy to the dear friends & nieces & nephews of Gloria Wolbach. We have all lost an outstanding member of our community. We were very blessed to have known Gloria & Bud and admire the legacy they have left our community. God bless Gloria and all she did in her lifetime. May she rest in peace with her loved ones. Most sincerely, Craig & Sue Foss and all the staff at The Hearing Clinic

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**Sue & Craig Foss** - July 06, 2014 at 02:54 PM

BD

“Gloria was a wonderful and sharing person. I am so glad to have known her. She will be missed.

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**Beth Dwyer** - July 06, 2014 at 02:49 PM

JV

“Gloria, like Bud, was the epitome of great class. Jim Vieregg Oro Valley, Arizona

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**Jim Vieregg** - July 02, 2014 at 02:15 PM