



Jean Coday (Mansfield)

November 1, 2018

Mrs. Jean Coday, Mansfield banker, civic leader, educator, historian, philanthropist, passed away November 1, in Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis just hours before her 88th birthday.

While Mrs. Coday was well-known as president and chairman of the board of the 126-year-old HomePride Bank, her reputation as a business woman was overshadowed by her 31-year career in education and by her exemplary leadership as the longtime president of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association and as acting director of the Wilder Home and Museum.

Her immediate survivors are a son, Joseph C. Coday, Chief Executive Officer of HomePride, his wife, Kelley, of Springfield; and a daughter, Jane, of Mansfield. A son, Robert (Bobby), died in 2014.

Also surviving are three grandchildren, Stephen Coday and wife Amanda, Olathe, KS; Connor Coday and his wife Mandy, Overland Park, KS ; Patrick Coday, O'Fallon, MO; a great-granddaughter, Nora Jean Coday, Olathe, KS; many cousins and scores of friends and associates.

A native of Ash Grove, Jean was the daughter of Carl F. and Pearl Edge Short, and had fond memories of her growing-up days in Ash Grove with her parents, two brothers, Jim and Bill, and sister, Jane, all of whom are deceased.

After graduation with honors from Ash Grove High School, Jean attended Drury University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education Degree in 1952, and later a Masters Degree of Education in Elementary Counseling, and still later a specialist certification in administration. Jean and Joseph D Coday, whom she met when both were Drury students, were married in 1953.

The young Coday family, with two young sons in tow and another child (daughter Jane) soon-to-be, moved to Mansfield after the senior Joe became executive vice-president of the family-owned Bank of Mansfield, (now the anchor institution for HomePride branches in Ava, Fordland, Norwood and Seymour). It was there that began her almost storied career in education and service to the community.

Jean's longtime career in education actually began in 1952 as a history teacher for 1 year at Pipkin Junior High in Springfield and resumed in 1970 when she became a first grade

teacher at Mansfield's Wilder Elementary School. In the three decades to follow, she taught first and second grades, then served as the school's first elementary counselor before being named principal. The Jean C. Coday Elementary School Elementary School Library was named in her honor in 2000, a lasting memorial for her many accomplishments over the years. Even after her retirement from active teaching, she served 12 years as a member of the Mansfield Board of Education ---several of those years as board president. Fond recollections by parents and former pupils of her teaching days were memories she cherished.

Jean's dedication to the welfare of youngsters in the community certainly didn't end with her retirement from the classroom. She never waived in her support for the less fortunate children. A prime example was in her role as a founding member in 1992 of the Wright County Children's Home, where she helped make possible construction of a modern home complete with food, clothing and house parents for children in transition from their own home to approved foster care.

Her stamina was remarkable. She made almost daily visits to the Wilder Home and Museum to consult with and supervise the work force. Her annual salary: Zero. If not at the Wilder property, perhaps she was at her "real" office, just off the front door in the lobby of HomePride Bank...Ignore the clutter.

And while her days were almost always full, there was time for talk of the Cardinals. For many years she joined family excursions to St. Louis to see her favorite baseball team perform. As an avid all-sports fan, she was, as is HomePride Bank, a strong supporter of youth sports.

She and husband Joe were members of the Lions Club and were active in the Boy Scouts organization. They started the first Cub Scout pack in Mansfield and Jean was Girl Scout leader at one time. She was a charter member of the Mansfield Community Betterment Association, the Community Center Board for 25 years, and the 12-county Southern Ozarks Alliance for Rural Development.

Her personal memberships over the years were numerous. She was a 50-year plus member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a philanthropic organization. She also was a member Delta Delta Delta sorority at Drury University, serving as chapter president for two years. In Springfield, where she had many friends, she attended First & Calvary Presbyterian Church.

All of Jean's accomplishments did not go unrecognized. She was named Mansfield's Citizen of the Year in 2005; was recipient of the 2003 Drury University Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service; the Mansfield Community Betterment Award; and the Edwin P. Hubble Medal of Initiative in 2014. Also in 2014, Jean was recipient of the prestigious Missourian Award, an honor she cherished. The award concluded with the following words:

"To say that Jean has had an impact on countless lives is an understatement. She has

given, and continues to give, selflessly, of her time, talent, money, and most of all her heart to those around her.” To which we add: Amen!

A memorial /celebration of life for Jean will be held Friday, November 16, at 1:30 at Holman-Howe Funeral Home, Mansfield, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association or the Coday Family Scholarship Fund. Donations to either can be sent to HomePride Bank, P.O. Box 138, Mansfield, MO 65704.

Cemetery

Mansfield Cemetery
Lincoln Rd
Mansfield, MO, 65704

Events

NOV	Service	01:30PM
16	<hr/>	
	Holman-Howe Funeral Home Mansfield 209 N. Lincoln Ave, Mansfield, MO, US, 65704	

Comments



“ Mark And Maryann Cruse lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Mark and maryann Cruse - November 20, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Loved by so many and what a legacy she left behind

Kevin and Brenda Keith - November 20, 2018 at 12:58 AM



“ Jim Short



James short - November 16, 2018 at 10:42 PM



“ Sandy Steen



Sandy Steen - November 16, 2018 at 09:44 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jean Coday (Mansfield).



November 16, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“ Sonya G Bennett lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



sonya g bennett - November 15, 2018 at 10:53 PM



“ Aunt Jean Coday, Hope you enjoy your thanksgiving with Bobbie and grandma Agnes Short up in heaven. Many blessings and god bless.



Collin, Colby, and Ashley - November 15, 2018 at 10:14 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Jean Coday (Mansfield).



November 14, 2018 at 02:49 PM



“ Don And Karen (Moody) Wilson lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Don and Karen (Moody) Wilson - November 13, 2018 at 11:11 PM



“ Joe and family, So very sorry! I cherish every conversation I had with Jean.

Thoughts and Prayers, Robert & Melissa Lawrence

Melissa Lawrence - November 11, 2018 at 06:12 PM



“ Jean was such a wonderful lady. She will be missed in so many circles around Mansfield and SW MO. I am so glad I have known her for so many years. Thinking of her family during this difficult time and huge hole left in their family. Sherry Y. Beasley

Sherry Y. Beasley - November 10, 2018 at 07:32 PM



“ Jean touch so may people in her life. Glad we were just 2 of them. We were blessed to have a lady like her in our small town. She will not be forgotten.
chuck and Brenda short

chuck and brenda short - November 08, 2018 at 06:52 PM



“ She was the best...touched so many lives..done so much for the the town of Mansfield. And the best teacher.



Leslie (climer) Dye - November 08, 2018 at 06:21 PM



“ She was a beautiful and sweet lady. She treated all people with respect and fairly. She will be a wonderful memory to all who knew her.



Carmalee Hall - November 08, 2018 at 08:41 AM



“ I will never forget the way you have impacted my life. I will forever be grateful and until we meet again fly high my friend. Forever loved and never forgotten.



Elizabeth Bagnall - November 08, 2018 at 07:58 AM



“ David Shaw lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



David Shaw - November 08, 2018 at 07:48 AM



“ I thank Mrs. Coday for allowing me the privilege of being a part of the Laura Ingalls Wilder museum. I miss seeing her smile and the warm greeting when I came to work. God bless you, Jean Coday.



Michelle Underwood - November 08, 2018 at 12:24 AM



“ Jean was such a wonderfully kind lady, and I will miss her so much. She was such a fascinating person to talk to, and her dedication to honoring the memory of Laura Ingalls Wilder was incomparable. Her friendship and warmth towards me and my family, especially following Bobby's death, will always be treasured. Praying for comfort and blessings to her family.
Vicki Blankenship

Vicki Blankenship - November 08, 2018 at 12:21 AM



“ Vicki Blankenship lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Vicki Blankenship - November 08, 2018 at 12:13 AM



“ Johnna Douglas lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Johnna Douglas - November 07, 2018 at 11:54 PM



“ She was a class act, I will always treasure my friendship with her. So sorry Joe, Jane and the rest of the family, she as you already know was a one in a million, there is so many good things to be said about her, but the one that comes to mind is blessed, we were blessed to have know her.



Greg & Millie Clark - November 07, 2018 at 06:31 PM



“ Karen Amundson lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Karen Amundson - November 07, 2018 at 03:18 PM



“ Peggy Adams sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Peggy Adams - November 07, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ Gail Newton lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Gail Newton - November 07, 2018 at 01:14 PM



“ I first met Jean working on history. She was full of passion and purpose and a good mentor to all folks seeking to be involved in their community:)

Elise Crain, Ozark

Dr M Elise Crain - November 07, 2018 at 10:34 AM



“ Donna Climer lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Donna Climer - November 07, 2018 at 02:06 AM



“ To the Coday family: We were so sorry to hear this news. A surprise for sure. We know she will be greatly missed in many places in and around Mansfield. The work she has done over the years for the community of Mansfield and the area has been appreciated and will be remembered thru the years. She was a pleasure to be around the times I had the pleasure to work with her.

The memories you have will keep you going and they are many I am sure and some will make you cry and some will make you laugh. One don't know or remember many until this day comes. Take your days as they come and enjoy the memories and the good times. Floyd and Janice Blankenship

Janice Blankenship - November 06, 2018 at 05:53 PM



“ Beth Ann Porter lit a candle in memory of Jean Coday (Mansfield)



Beth Ann Porter - November 06, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ What a wonderful and classic lady



Jim and Joyce Johnston - November 06, 2018 at 03:18 PM



“ Mrs Coday was a great lady.
She cared about the people of Mansfield and the community.
Prayers for the family.



Ray and Kathy Dotson - November 06, 2018 at 12:46 PM



“ Jean was usually the sunshine that started a school day. Words of wisdom were always so helpful when the day took a turn for the worse. She was a tremendous friend and mentor, and was such a huge help in so many ways in my family's life. So many friends will miss her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family for strength at this trying time.



Elaine and Bob Crump - November 06, 2018 at 09:14 AM