



Sharon U. Thompson

January 7, 1942 - October 3, 2019

Sharon U. Thompson, age 77, of Dixon died October 3, 2019. Sharon was born in Sublette, Illinois on January 7, 1942, the daughter of Elmer C. and Ruth Reid Underhile. She graduated from Amboy High School in 1960 and earned a Degree in Marketing from Sauk Valley Community College. She married James Thompson on May 13, 1961. She later married Wendell Snell on April 25, 2003, who survives her. She had two children, Angela Thompson Pate & her daughter Helen; and Robert (Michelle) Thompson & their children Spencer and Solis, Dixon; and two step-children, Linda Koepke, Morrison; and Laura (Jim) Dobbins, Cordova, Tennessee; nine grandchildren in all; 2 great-grandchildren; her sisters Beverly Beams, Tiskilwa; Joyce U. Gibson, Dixon; Jane U. Miles, Oregon; and two brothers who predeceased her, Lester C. (Laura) Underhile, Dixon; and Calvin T. Underhile. In 1972, "Sharon U." was elected to the Lee County Board. In 1974, she was elected Lee County Treasurer; the first Democrat in Lee County to be elected county treasurer and the third Democrat to hold county office in the history of Lee County. She served 20 years as Lee County Treasurer, and was the first Lee County Treasurer to invest county funds in interest-bearing accounts. She earned over ten million dollars in interest for the citizens of Lee County. Sharon was elected President of the Illinois County Treasurers' Association in 1982/83, and was named "Treasurer of the Year" by her peers in 1987. She was elected President of the Illinois Association of County Officials in 1989/90. Sharon was selected as the Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC)

Outstanding Alumna of the Year, 1992. She was elected to the SVCC Board of Trustees in 1996; elected to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) in 1992/94; elected again as annuitant Trustee for IMRF in 2000 where she served until her death. In 1995, Sharon was selected by the Governor of Illinois to serve on the Property Tax Appeal Board, and was a realtor-broker for Burke Realty for 20 years.

She was selected by the Illinois Democratic State Central Committee to be an Alternate Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984; elected Alternate in 1988; served as a volunteer to the Convention in 1996; and elected as Delegate in 2004. In 1998, she was the recipient of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Leadership Award from the Illinois Democratic Women's Association.

Sharon was a member of the First Baptist Church; active in many community affairs, including Say No to Drugs; Board member of the American Cancer Society and Reach to Recovery Coordinator; Charter member Ambassador's Club, Dixon Chamber of Commerce; Dixon Area United Way; Dixon Rotary Club; Tax Counseling for the Elderly; Dixon Public Library board member; Dixon Riverfront Commission; Illinois Lottery Control Board; and was a charter member Sauk Valley Community College Endowment Fund, along with several other charitable organizations.

A Memorial will be established with Sauk Valley Community College Foundation to benefit single mother scholarships.

Visitation is Tuesday, October 8, at Jones Funeral Home from 3pm to 7pm, and a Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, October 9 at Dixon Elks Lodge at 10:30 a.m. with interment at Chapel Hill, Dixon. Immediately thereafter a lunch will be served at Dixon Elks Lodge.

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

1121 N. Galena Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 8. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon
204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
Ph: 815-288-2241
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

A Celebration of Life

OCT 9. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Dixon Elks Lodge #779
1279 Franklin Grove Rd
Dixon, IL 61021

Tribute Wall



“ Sharon U. Thompson

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ Sharon U. Thompson

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ Just heard about Sharon's death and was totally shocked! I first met Sharon after being elected County Treasurer in Adams County way back in 1982 and got to talk with her many times at various meetings and always thought that she was one of the nicest persons I had ever met. A few years ago, I got to talk to Sharon again. She was able to take care of a problem I had in her official duties as a trustee with I.M.R.F. She will be missed greatly by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with family at this difficult time.

Howard Wear - November 05, 2019 at 08:15 PM



“ I knew Sharon first as a realtor. She was always involved whether it be on the realtor board association or with a community organization. I will always remember wearing a smile and great as her wardrobe. I am sorry for your loss.

Patty Martinez - October 09, 2019 at 03:42 PM

BS

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Sharon's passing. When I graduated from high school, my first job was at USF&G in Dixon. Sharon was my boss -- and became a great friend. We often went to the White House for chicken. She would have me over to her home for dinner often. I have great memories of Sharon. Very sorry for your loss.

Bev Schammel Spenader - October 08, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



October 08, 2019 at 11:35 AM

GF

“ very very sorry for your loss from George fichtenmueller at j and j marine

george fichtenmueller - October 07, 2019 at 07:19 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



October 07, 2019 at 12:19 PM

LS

“ Wendell, my thoughts and prayers are with you today. I never had the honor of meeting Sharon but judging from the comments in this tribute letter, i would say she was a wonderful person, and I am glad that you were able to have many wonderful years with her.
Linda Slothower

Linda Slothower - October 07, 2019 at 10:46 AM

MO

“ Matt Klahn & Staff of State's Attorney Office purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



Matt Klahn & Staff of State's Attorney Office - October 07, 2019 at 10:38 AM

RK

“ Ryan and Miranda Kremer purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



Ryan and Miranda Kremer - October 07, 2019 at 10:12 AM

MB

“ Marilyn Braidia lit a candle in memory of Sharon U. Thompson



marilyn braidia - October 07, 2019 at 09:16 AM

SC

“ Wendell I am so very sorry to hear of your wife's passing. I hope that your memories of her will help you and the rest of the family during this very difficult time. Love, Sandy Slothower Conklin

Sandy Conklin - October 06, 2019 at 11:04 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



October 06, 2019 at 03:24 PM

AY

“ Linda shared this sad news with me. I send my condolence, Wendell. Audrey Lewis Young (Marilyn Byers sister)

Audrey Young - October 05, 2019 at 12:24 AM



“ Starbucks Coffee Condolences was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



October 04, 2019 at 10:47 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.*



October 04, 2019 at 05:57 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.*



October 04, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.*



October 04, 2019 at 03:38 PM



“ *Sharon loved life! I don't think Sharon ever met a stranger and had friends in all walks of life, because she never judged anyone. She took the good with the bad and kept on smiling. She probably touched more lives than anyone will know and now with the Sauk Valley College Foundation, she will continue to touch lives. Our deepest sympathy to her family.*

Sue Devers and Steve Schroeder - October 04, 2019 at 02:41 PM

SS

“ Sue Devers And Steve Schroeder lit a candle in memory of Sharon U. Thompson



Sue Devers and Steve Schroeder - October 04, 2019 at 02:26 PM

JS

“ Sharon was a trailblazer as well as a friendly outgoing "people person." She will always have a special place in my wife's heart since Sharon asked if she was my daughter years ago when we ran into her and Wendell down in Ladd. I extend our sincerest sympathies to the family in this difficult time. I must add that in Sharon's case the term "Celebration of Life" is highly appropriate. There are so many achievements and accomplishments to celebrate.

Jack Schrauth - October 04, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ Laura LaCoursiere lit a candle in memory of Sharon U. Thompson



Laura LaCoursiere - October 04, 2019 at 12:49 PM

KB

“ Karen Blaine lit a candle in memory of Sharon U. Thompson



Karen Blaine - October 04, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



October 04, 2019 at 10:56 AM

SF

“ Sauk Valley College Foundation purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



Sauk Valley College Foundation - October 04, 2019 at 10:05 AM

MH

“ I was certainly saddened to learn of Sharon's death. Upon getting to know Sharon and her family in the early 1970 s, I quickly learned she inherited the personable, quiet competence of her Mom and the stand-your-ground-and-look-your-critics-in-the-eye integrity of her Dad. We'd all be better persons if we reflected Sharon's natural instincts and strengths in our own lives. Congratulations Sharon, on a life well-lived !

mike heckman - October 03, 2019 at 10:13 PM

NP

Wendell I am so sorry for your loss.

Nancy Paulsen - October 04, 2019 at 09:42 AM



Thank you, Mike.

Bob Thompson - January 05, 2020 at 12:41 AM

JH

“ *I was fortunate to know Sharon for many years. I assisted her on a fundraiser years ago and we shared our ideas together. The fundraiser of course was a success as anything she touched turned to gold. May the road rise to meet you Sharon and may God hold you in the palm of his hand.* ”

Jim Henkel - October 03, 2019 at 09:49 PM

RA

“ *Ron And Tami Ackert lit a candle in memory of Sharon U. Thompson* ”



Ron and Tami Ackert - October 03, 2019 at 08:52 PM

EM

“ *Sharon was a busy lady always with a smile. God Bless Sharon and her family. She will be missed. Eula Monahan, Alvin, TX.* ”



Eula Monahan - October 03, 2019 at 08:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



October 03, 2019 at 07:57 PM



“ *The IMRF Board of Trustees and Staff purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



The IMRF Board of Trustees and Staff - October 03, 2019 at 07:24 PM

CD

“ Sharon U was one of the strongest and most inspirational women I have ever had the pleasure to know. When I would make the paper, Sharon would be sure to send a clipping to my Mom. When Mom was sick I remember Sharon coming to the hospital to see her and give her encouragement to fight and other bits of advice regarding dealing with illness. When I chose to be a single Mom, Sharon gave me the courage and support that I needed. She loved me for exactly who I was. I remember sitting with a group of folks who were discussing politics and current events, and thinking how I would love to know more and be more. When I decided to quit my factory job, move 365 miles south, and return to school, Sharon U was one of my biggest fans!! She and Angie came to visit!!! Oh the fun we girls had. Sharon never met a stranger, and people here still talk about the “three blonde sisters”! I became an LPN, then an RN, followed by my BSN. In May I will be Dr. Cynthia Davis, graduating as a Family Nurse Practitioner with my Doctoral Degree, and I never would have taken the leap had it not been for the love and support of you and your dear Mother. I love you all, and I am so thankful for the love and guidance that came from Sharon U. She will never be forgotten and her memory will live on as scholarships are given in her name to benefit single mothers. What a legacy❤️

Cindy Pratt Davis - October 03, 2019 at 06:39 PM

PP

“ Pat and Manuel Pulgarin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Sharon U. Thompson.



Pat and Manuel Pulgarin - October 03, 2019 at 04:51 PM