



Linda Gillum Stafford

May 25, 1946 - July 18, 2025

Linda Gillum Stafford departed this earthly world for her heavenly reward on July 18, 2025 after a tragic farming accident.

Linda, age 79, was born on May 25, 1946, on Ison Creek in Elliott County, a daughter of John David Gillum and Delphia Rucker Gillum.

Linda attended Newfoundland Community Church and was a devout Christian. She loved attending Church every Sunday and Thursday night prayer meeting. Since the passing of her husband, Paul, Linda's special friend, Margie Hawes, was her constant church pew companion and luncheon partner at McDonald's.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 49½ years, Paul Stafford. Linda is survived by two daughters, Paula Stafford of Wellington, Kentucky, and Patricia (Jeff) Chandler of Middletown, Ohio. She leaves behind two adored granddaughters: McKalya Chandler of Jeffersonville, Indiana, and McKenzie Chandler of Sandy Hook, Kentucky. Additionally, brothers David (Sandi) Gillum of Middletown, Ohio; Allen (Carolyn) Gillum of Burke, Kentucky; Ernie Gillum of Olive Hill, Kentucky, and one sister, Angelene Addington of Grayson, Kentucky. Linda leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends who sadly mourn her passing.

Linda married the love of her life at the tender age of 17. They worked hard to make a living farming and raising their two daughters. After both girls were born, Linda enrolled at Morehead State University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Education. She later completed her Master's degree and additional post-graduate work. Linda began and ended her teaching career at Lakeside Elementary, a couple of minutes from her home. She was a dedicated and conscientious teacher. Linda kept a roster of every student she taught and would frequently pull it out to reminisce about days gone by. In addition to her full-time teaching job, she continued to work with Paul side-by-side on the farm. It was a common sight to see her on the tractor raking hay while Paul came behind baling it. She continued their cattle operation after Paul died and loved telling everyone about how many "babies" (calves) she had at any given time.

Our mom, "granny," absolutely adored her two granddaughters. The girls spent weeks with Granny and Papaw every summer. They learned the value of hard work and the importance of family from two very important people, Granny and Papaw.

Mom treasured her monthly luncheons with "The Lakeside Group." The friendships she formed with her colleagues remained strong throughout her retirement.

Linda's daughters, granddaughters, and son-in-law have so many precious and wonderful memories of Granny. Her death leaves a void in our hearts that can never be filled, but we know our loss is Heaven's gain.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, in the Chapel of the Whitt and Sons Funeral Home with Brothers Shannon Maggard and Franklin Gillum officiating. Burial will follow in the Paul E. Stafford Family Cemetery on Stafford Branch.

Friends may visit from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 21, and after 9:00 a.m. Tuesday until the service hour.

Jeffery Chandler, David Gillum, Brian Gillum, Matthew Fannin, Ryan Fannin, and Theodore Wagoner will serve as pallbearers. The Brothers and Sisters of Newfoundland Community Church will serve as honorary pallbearers.

A special thanks to Cathy Boggs, Joan Anderson, and Jason Gillum for lending their beautiful voices to the services.

Cemetery Details

Stafford Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 21. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Whitt & Sons Funeral Home
1260 North Ky 7
Sandy Hook, KY 41171

Service

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Whitt & Sons Funeral Home
1260 North Ky 7
Sandy Hook, KY 41171

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family and friends. May God bless and comfort.* ”



Sen. Walter "Doc" Blevins - July 23, 2025 at 01:57 PM

ML

“ *Marisa & Danny Littleton* ”



Marisa Littleton - July 22, 2025 at 11:19 AM

CH

“ *Courtney, Heather and Women's Healthcare purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.* ”



Courtney, Heather and Women's Healthcare - July 21, 2025 at 10:21 AM

LF

“ Love, Primary Care Franklin Family purchased the Butterfly Tribute Blanket for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



Love, Primary Care Franklin Family - July 21, 2025 at 09:00 AM

LF

“ Love, Primary Care Franklin Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Gillum Stafford.

Love, Primary Care Franklin Family - July 21, 2025 at 09:00 AM

BJ

“ Brian and Lisa Chandler and family and J purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



Brian and Lisa Chandler and family and J - July 20, 2025 at 08:48 PM

KH

“ Kathy H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Gillum Stafford.

Kathy H. - July 20, 2025 at 06:27 PM

DO

“ I remember Linda long ago bringing her two little girls to Sunday school at Watson church. She was such a nice lady and sister to a dear lady I loved and admired very much growing up. After I was grown and had children of my own I didn't figure she would remember me when I ran into her in town but she was just as friendly and nice as always. I'm sorry for her loss to all her family but I know we will all see her again someday. Prayers of comfort for all.



Debbie & Darrell O'Hara - July 20, 2025 at 03:57 PM

LT

“ Love, Lisa, Kelsi, Keeley and Tawanda purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



Love, Lisa, Kelsi, Keeley and Tawanda - July 20, 2025 at 02:20 PM

LF

“ Love, The Richard & Mandy Barker Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



Love, The Richard & Mandy Barker Family - July 20, 2025 at 02:07 PM

LF

“ Love, The Richard & Mandy Barker Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Gillum Stafford.

Love, The Richard & Mandy Barker Family - July 20, 2025 at 02:07 PM

JC

“ James, Dawn, Kelli, & Kristin Chandler. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



James, Dawn, Kelli, & Kristin Chandler. - July 20, 2025 at 11:00 AM

JC

“ James, Dawn, Kelli, & Kristin Chandler. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Gillum Stafford.

James, Dawn, Kelli, & Kristin Chandler. - July 20, 2025 at 11:00 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



July 20, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Linda Gillum Stafford.

July 20, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



July 20, 2025 at 09:52 AM



“ Your mom was the sweetest lady so sorry for your loss many thoughts and prayers in the days to come.



Kimberly Howard Jessie - July 20, 2025 at 09:19 AM



“ So Sorry to hear the news of Linda's passing.....Prayers for her family and I'm sure her Church Family and her pass students will mourn her passing ..Linda Fly High with the Angels



Sue and Bob Parmley - July 20, 2025 at 08:20 AM

TB

“ Tammy Boltz lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford



Tammy Boltz - July 20, 2025 at 06:37 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



July 20, 2025 at 01:44 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



July 19, 2025 at 10:56 PM

AS

“ I don't remember when I first Linda, but I instantly liked her had had a lot of respect for her no-nonsense attitude and her Christian example.

Angela Simmons - July 19, 2025 at 10:47 PM

AP

“ *Ann Porter Eastern District Retired Teachers so sorry for your loss, she was such a a great and faithful member of the retired teachers association we sure will miss her. She also taught my daughter in law Beverly Harris Porter who was very fond of her also.*

Ann Porter - July 19, 2025 at 09:20 PM

LA

“ *Lawrence and Barbara Adkins*



Lawrence and Barbara Adkins - July 19, 2025 at 08:03 PM

CM

“ *Craig & Debbie McNeil lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Craig & Debbie McNeil - July 19, 2025 at 07:57 PM

CS

“ *Sending our deepest condolences and prayers to all Linda Family. She was a Amazing Lady*



Carson And Marsha Sparks - July 19, 2025 at 07:52 PM

KC

“ Keisha Caudill lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford



Keisha Caudill - July 19, 2025 at 06:04 PM

DL

“ May the LORD uplift, strengthen, & comfort the family in their time of need. GOD bless !!!



Dwayne L Laney - July 19, 2025 at 04:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Linda Gillum Stafford.

July 19, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Linda Gillum Stafford.



July 19, 2025 at 03:36 PM

PH

“ Pam Howard lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford



Pam Howard - July 19, 2025 at 03:09 PM

DI

“ Donnie & Nellie Ingles lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford



Donnie & Nellie Ingles - July 19, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ Diana Rowe lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford



Diana Rowe - July 19, 2025 at 01:17 PM

EH

“ What a blessing to have gone through high school with Linda, having been friends who spent nights at each other's homes, went to the wedding for her and Paul, and maintained friendship ever since. Praying God's loving comfort for all her precious family and looking forward to a reunion in heaven some day.

Ethel Howard - July 19, 2025 at 11:25 AM

WH

“ *Wilma Hutchinson lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Wilma Hutchinson - July 19, 2025 at 11:12 AM

JL

“ *Jan Lewis lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Jan lewis - July 19, 2025 at 09:43 AM

GB

“ *Gene & Carole Binion lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Gene & Carole Binion - July 19, 2025 at 07:58 AM

DW

“ *Donnie And Kimberly Whitt lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Donnie and Kimberly Whitt - July 19, 2025 at 07:57 AM

SS

“ *Sally W Stephens lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Sally W Stephens - July 19, 2025 at 06:59 AM

LW

“ *Mrs Stafford was my 5th grade teacher and i loved her , she was one of my favorite teachers.Prayers for her family and friends.*

Linda Wheeler - July 19, 2025 at 04:52 AM

SG

“ *Taught with Linda many years at Lakeside and she was a dear friend. She loved attending our monthly LES retired folks lunch meetings and her presences will be missed.*



Sherrell Greene - July 19, 2025 at 02:16 AM

SG

Error made in original post. Should be spelled presence! Linda, I failed to proofread!

Sherrell Greene - July 19, 2025 at 02:24 AM

SD

“ *Sharma Watson Darby lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Sharma Watson Darby - July 19, 2025 at 12:37 AM

TS

“ *Teresia Skaggs lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Teresia Skaggs - July 19, 2025 at 12:22 AM

TC

“ *I'm so sorry to hear this news. Linda was always so professional and loved teaching. Her influence surely changed so many young lives! Prayers of strength & comfort for her family.*



Trisha Carroll - July 19, 2025 at 12:09 AM

MH

“ *Sorry for your loss*



Mavis Howard - July 18, 2025 at 11:37 PM

NS

“ *Nancy Stephens Sloas lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Nancy Stephens Sloas - July 18, 2025 at 11:11 PM

LB

“ *Lonnie And Donna Fay Barker lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford*



Lonnie and Donna Fay Barker - July 18, 2025 at 11:02 PM

DS

“ *I had Mrs Stafford in the 5th grade at lakeside she a wonderful woman she will be missed. I just talked to her a couple weeks ago at McDonald's and she still remembere me*

Derrick Smith - July 18, 2025 at 11:02 PM

CR

“ *So sorry for your loss....*



Cindy Redwine - July 18, 2025 at 10:33 PM

JF

“ *Much love and many prayers for all of Linda's sweet family!*



Jimmy & Kathy Adkins & family - July 18, 2025 at 10:27 PM

LL

“ *Such a good person! Worked with Linda many years! Prayers for her family!* ”



lenora lyons - July 18, 2025 at 10:20 PM

VF

“ *So very sorry!
Love & Prayers to all the family* ”



Vickie & David Fox - July 18, 2025 at 10:17 PM

VE

“ *Vallire Elliott lit a candle in memory of Linda Gillum Stafford* ”



Vallire Elliott - July 18, 2025 at 10:14 PM

VB

“ *My 7th grade teacher..one of the best teachers...* ”



Vergia Porter Branham - July 18, 2025 at 10:14 PM

DS

“ *Delma Skaggs lit a candle in memory of Linda
Gillum Stafford*



Delma Skaggs - July 18, 2025 at 10:13 PM