



Mary Lee Daniels Lay

April 14, 1931 - February 7, 2026

Mary Lee Daniels Lay, 94 years young, died peacefully in her sleep at her home in St. George, Utah on February 7, 2026.

She was born April 14, 1931 in Annabella, Utah to William Bliss and Mary LaVern Daniels.

She graduated from South Sevier High School where she was a cheerleader, FFA Queen and very involved in the activities at her high school.

She married Don Lay on January 2, 1951 in Flagstaff, Arizona. Their marriage was later solemnized in the St. George Temple on May 28, 1960.

She was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints.

She was beautiful, wonderful, kind, always optimistic and hopeful. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was such a bright shining presence in our lives.

She was the free family therapist and was constantly getting calls on her phone for advice or when we needed someone to talk to that could solve our problems and make us feel better.

In 1964 while in California after her daughter Shelly was operated on and in the hospital she went on the TV show "Queen for a Day". The winning contestant was selected by the audience using an applause meter after hearing their story. She was chosen by the audience out of all the contestants and was crowned "Queen for a Day" then and will forever remain the famous Queen in all our hearts.

She is survived by her baby sister, Holly Lay, her children Merry Dawn (Mike) Johnson, Micki (Rex) Barney, Tami Hess and Cole (Kristy) Lay. She is survived by 14 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, and 6 great great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Don Lay and daughter Shelly Lay, parents William Bliss and Mary LaVern Hawley Daniels, Phillip Daniels (brother) and Bebe Daniels Jensen (sister).

Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 14 @1:00 PM. The viewing will be held prior to the services from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Marysvale LDS Chapel. 800 West Center Street, Marysvale, UT.

Burial will be in the Thompsonville Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Thompsonville Cemetery

1851 S Thompsonville Rd
Marysvale, UT 84750

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 14. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
800 W Bullion Ave
Marysvale, UT 84750
(435) 527-5604

Funeral Service

FEB 14. 1:00 PM (MT)

LDS Church - Marysvale, UT
800 West Center Street
Marysvale, UT

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Audio Recording*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - February 16 at 01:27 PM

JB

“ Sorry for your loss.
Here are two song renditions that seem to give us perspective:
<https://share.singsnap.com/play/723805>
<https://share.singsnap.com/play/2354370>
just go to these internet links and listen.
It is always sorrowful for us when a loved one dies.
But for the departed one it will be glorious.
Jay Beacham

jay Beacham - February 14 at 10:45 PM

SS

“ To Mary's family: I just learned of Mary's death. Please accept my sincere condolences. I've known Mary and you kids my whole life. Believe me when I say she was one of kind and a very special person. When I moved to St George she helped me in numerous ways over the years. She always knew just when to show up. Know that my thoughts are with you.
Shaunice Snow

Shaun Snow - February 14 at 08:47 PM

JS

“ *Micki and family, we're so sorry for the loss of your sweet mom, we will always have the best memories of summers filled with horse races and getting in the winners circle. Don and Mary, such great people! Much love, James & Julie*

Julie Sorenson - February 14 at 03:25 PM

KP

“ *Cole, I am sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. I have good memories growing up playing ball with you and being coached by your dad. I hope all can be as well as possible for you.*
Kent Page

Kent Page - February 13 at 03:20 PM

RG

“ *Hello Lay family, and specifically Cole, who I knew very well thru basketball. I was at the house often my senior year and Mary was always kind and never made me feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. She let Cole always make spaghetti for Cole and me. Cole and I would pal around and those are fond memories for me. Both Mary and Don were fun being around! Thinking of you all at this time...*
Robert Gentry

Robert Gentry - February 12 at 11:16 AM