



Dixie Greer

August 31, 1936 - October 28, 2024

Dixie Lee (Ward) Greer of Hazelwood, Missouri, died Oct. 28, 2024, marking an end to a remarkable life that touched so many others as she spread information, love, and support across generations.

Dixie was many things to many people: A daughter, a sibling, a wife, a mom, an aunt, a grandmother, a cousin, a friend, a boss, a colleague, a registered dietitian, a counselor, a Sunday School teacher, a bridge partner, a neighbor, a volunteer and an unintentional comedian at times.

Dixie deeply loved her family, friends, patients and her community. She also loved so many other things that brought her joy. Her love of the St. Louis Cardinals began when she was growing up in rural Oklahoma. The mighty KMOX radio signal could reach her hometown, so she and her brother became lifelong fans. When her husband had job offers in St. Louis and Colorado, her chance to be part of the hometown fanbase tipped the scales, and the family moved to the St. Louis area in 1968. Even when the Cards were terrible, Dixie was there, rooting them on and holding out hope for a late season run.

She loved the other kind of cards, too, playing bridge with different groups and partners for many years. She was never competitive and just enjoyed the company and laughs shared by all. She loved country music, especially the

classic country of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s – Johnny Cash, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Charlie Pride, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rodgers and especially the queen of all things, Dolly Parton. She loved her own dogs (and she had so many) and the dogs that she and her husband helped rescue, train and place through St. Louis Sheltie Rescue.

Dixie loved the Lord, and she was a lifelong Methodist and a 50+ year member of Arlington United Methodist Church in Bridgeton. There she taught Sunday School to generations of preschoolers (as a mighty threesome with Fran Simms and Sylvia Moore) and volunteered at Community Helping Ministries. She loved birds (especially cardinals), butterflies, the animals at the zoo and watching Animal Planet. She loved Christmas, angels and flowers. In her later years, as her world got smaller, she rediscovered her love of coloring, spending hours in the kitchen making amazing art to share with those who came to visit. And she discovered ways to connect with her siblings and family through Zooms weekly, making her world a little bigger again.

Dixie also loved her career. In an era when wives and mothers often were discouraged from working outside the home, she demonstrated to her daughters, her granddaughters and so many other women that it was possible to be devoted to her family and community as well as a job. But it was never just a job – it was a calling. Dixie was a registered dietitian, and she loved using that knowledge to help change patients' lives and to amaze her family with facts like the shocking levels of sodium in canned soup and how extra cheese could add protein to canned raviolis. After working as an intern in Indianapolis, Indiana, and at jobs in Columbia, Missouri, and Toledo, Ohio, Dixie went to work for the Sisters of Saint Mary's, first at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Charles and later at St. Mary's Hospital in Clayton. She stepped back from full-time work to work part time at SSM Health doing home health visits before fully retiring in 2009. She was actively involved with the American Dietetic Association and the Missouri Dietetic Association. Dixie was named the

Missouri Dietetic Association's Outstanding Dietitian in 1988 and was presented with the association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

Dixie Lee Greer was born Dixie Ward in Poteau, Oklahoma, on Aug. 31, 1936, to Houston E. Ward and Mable (Rhoten) Ward. The family, which eventually included five children, later moved to Hugo, Oklahoma. She graduated from Hugo High School in 1955 and remained lifelong friends with the "Hugo Girls." Dixie went to Oklahoma State University, and the Ward family followed her there not long after. In Stillwater, she met Donald Ray Greer, the love of her life and her husband of 64 years. After graduating from Oklahoma State with a degree in nutrition and food management in 1959, she moved with Don to Columbia, Missouri, where she gave birth to her two daughters, Vicki Lea and Jennifer Dawn. After a brief stint in Toledo, Ohio, the family settled in Hazelwood, in the home where she spent her last 56 years. She later earned a master's degree from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, in adult education, focusing on nutrition.

Dixie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Donald (of the home); daughters Vicki (Tucson, Arizona) and Jennifer (Richard LeComte, Lexington, Kentucky); granddaughters Rachel LeComte (Lexington), Hannah LeComte (Alexandria, Virginia) and Olivia LeComte (Hazelwood); siblings Houston Ward (Stillwater, Oklahoma), Jewell Ward (Jim Brooks, Memphis, Tennessee), Marilyn Ward (Española, New Mexico) and John Ward (Pam Whitney, currently roaming Europe); and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral service is scheduled for at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at Archway Memorial Chapel in Hazelwood with the Rev. Daniel Shanks presiding. For those who would like to personally say goodbye to Dixie, the casket will be open for visitation from 9 a.m. to just prior to the service. The family invites

everyone to lunch and a toast to celebrate Dixie's life from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday. Details of the lunch celebration will be provided at the chapel for all who are able to join.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for gifts in Dixie's honor to be directed to the Friends of Imperial Crown Pet Cemetery, where her beloved shelties are buried (115 N. Highway 67, Florissant, Missouri, 63031-5901; Phone: 314-921-1558) or to the St. Louis Zoo Tribute Fund (<https://stlzoo.org/give/tribute-fund>).

Cemetery Details

PRIVATE

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 4. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Archway Memorial Chapel
111 Taylor Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042
(314) 895-3900
info@archwaychapel.com

Funeral Service

NOV 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Archway Memorial Chapel
111 Taylor Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042
(314) 895-3900
info@archwaychapel.com

Tribute Wall

HP

“ From Helen Porter, my deepest condolences on your loss. Thinking about our good times together at SJHC and SSM.

Helen Porter - July 15, 2025 at 08:51 PM

RR

“ I remember Mrs. Greer as a very kind woman. I was 5 or 6 and she was my mom's friend when we were 1 of 2 black families that lived in Hazelwood in the 1970s. Hazelwood was horribly racist back then but Dixie and her family were always kind to our family. I'll always remember that about them. When my mom passed away in 2017 she reached out to our family. Vicky and Jenny were friends with my older sisters. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Robyn Reese - June 02, 2025 at 09:13 PM

GS

“ Don and family, I just heard of Dixie's death; so sorry for your loss. I remember Dixie being very instrumental in the establishment of the St. Charles Branch of the then, St. Louis Diabetes Association. Dixie and I worked together on several Bike-A-Thons for the St. Charles Branch. Dixie always had a positive attitude as to whether we could organize a successful Bike-A-Thon fund raiser, one in Hazelwood, one at Blanchette Park in St. Charles, and one at Lake St. Louis. All of them were successful, in large part due to her calm and reliable leadership! I will always remember Dixie and her dedication to her profession and her willingness to help others in need.

Gary Shillito

Gary Shillito - December 31, 2024 at 09:43 PM



“ Don, so sorry to hear about Dixie. The last time I saw her she was shopping at Michaels to make a scrapbook of your volunteer work at the zoo. Helped her take her things out to the car. Wish I could have seen that book. She was so proud of you. I will be making a donation to the pet cemetery in remembrance of her. Take care. Will be keeping you and your family in our prayers. Jackie and John Barnette

Jackie Barnette - November 05, 2024 at 01:30 PM

GY

“ Don,so sorry for your loss ... our thoughts and prayers are with you//

George Yard - November 04, 2024 at 03:26 PM

MM

“ Dear Don , Vicki , Jennifer and family .
Dixie was my first boss and mentor and a friend . I worked for her and with in many capacities at St Mary's . She was so encouraging and helped me in my career path like no other . She was so funny and caring and so smart . I have so many fond memories of her and many great experiences with her . I'm so sorry for your loss but happy she got to be retired for so long and enjoy her family and friends . I know she is resting in peace , no one deserves or more .

Mary Michler - November 04, 2024 at 11:29 AM

JG

Mary, I remember mom talking about you and how much she enjoyed working with you. I think we met a few times. She loved her work, mainly because of the chance to work with co-workers and help patients. Thank you for reaching out.

Jennifer Greer - November 17, 2024 at 09:13 AM

JD

“ *Dixie was a wonderful boss, teacher and mentor. Condolences to her family and friends. Jeannie McGinn Dwyer*

Jeannie Dwyer - November 04, 2024 at 11:12 AM

JM

“ *Julie Meyerhoff lit a candle in memory of Dixie Greer*



Julie Meyerhoff - November 04, 2024 at 10:11 AM

GK

“ *Don, so sorry for your loss. May she rest in peace.*

Grace Kennedy

An old UMSL colleague

Grace Kennedy - November 03, 2024 at 11:39 AM

CD

“ *Dear Don and girls, I am so sorry to read about your loss. Dixie was such an amazing person, a smart RD, a fun colleague and a joy to be around. I have Sooo many cherished memories of many years of sharing dietetics work with her. I wish I could be there Monday but I am in San Antonio for a professional meeting. Know that all of you are in my prayers! Love Connie Diekman*

Connie Diekman - November 03, 2024 at 09:58 AM

MN

“ My sincere condolences - Tina Navis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dixie Greer.

My sincere condolences - Tina Navis - November 01, 2024 at 10:38 PM

MN

“ My sincere condolences - Tina Navis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dixie Greer.



My sincere condolences - Tina Navis - November 01, 2024 at 10:38 PM

TB

“ Travis B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dixie Greer.

Travis B. - November 01, 2024 at 08:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dixie Greer.



November 01, 2024 at 04:11 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Dixie Greer.



November 01, 2024 at 03:30 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Dixie's passing. She was a fun bridge partner for many years. Even when her mobility was decreased, she was willing to climb up in my suburban to go play. She new the city and where we were going. I just drove. We shared a love of dogs. Pets know a gentle soul and hers was one. Condolences to Don, the girls, and the grandchildren. I pray God gives you the peace that passes all understanding to each of you. You will see her again.

Rebecca Swenson - November 01, 2024 at 12:12 PM



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

November 01, 2024 at 08:35 AM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Dixie Greer.



November 01, 2024 at 08:35 AM

MF

“ Moore, Beckerle and McGuire Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dixie Greer.

Moore, Beckerle and McGuire Families - November 01, 2024 at 08:31 AM

MF

“ Moore, Beckerle and McGuire Families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dixie Greer.



Moore, Beckerle and McGuire Families - November 01, 2024 at 08:31 AM



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

October 31, 2024 at 08:36 PM

MS

“ Michael Szwargulski lit a candle in memory of Dixie Greer



Michael Szwargulski - October 31, 2024 at 03:35 PM

KS

“ *Ken McGhee & Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Dixie Greer*



Ken McGhee & Archway Staff - October 30, 2024 at 12:44 PM