



## Juanita "Nita" Martaine Brown Marriott

August 7, 1928 - January 21, 2016

Juanita "Nita" Martaine Brown Marriott, age 87, of Versailles, passed away Thursday, January 21, 2016. She was born in 1928, in Topeka, Kansas. Her family moved to Versailles in 1941, when she was in junior high school. Nita's family originated from Versailles, where they owned and operated the Martin Hotel, which now houses the Morgan County Historical Society and Museum. Her middle name is derived from the name of the hotel.

Nita's mother, Shirley, was a reporter at the Statesman, featured in a column "Around town with Shirley Brown." Her father was a geological surveyor. Nita's parents were the first couple in the U. S. to have their wedding nuptials aired on the radio. Nita's brother, Foster Dale Brown was a talented musician, and served in the Army in WWII.

Her father, Foster Brown, was adopted at the age of three by his Aunt Lucy Martin when his own mother [Lucy's sister] died. It was Lucy who ran the Martin Hotel where Nita and her family lived between the years of 1941 and 1944. At that time, the country was just beginning to recover from the Great Depression. Nita said her family weathered the depression "without much."

Nita and her husband, Lloyd Creed Marriott, were married on July 27, 1947, a year after graduating from high school. They soon moved from Versailles to Pleasant Hill where Creed worked at a Kroger Grocery store until 1951 when

he entered the Army, serving as Second Lieutenant Company Commander. During this time, Nita lived at Lake Lotawana and worked as an administrative assistant at Lake City Army Ammunition Plant.

The family moved from Clinton, to St. Joseph, to south Kansas City in 1958. In 1977, they returned to Versailles and became active members of the community. Nita is responsible for starting the Christmas Lighting Ceremony in Versailles. Creed opened Marriott Wood Products. His craftsmanship can be seen in hundreds of homes around the lake area, his masterpiece being the interior of the Versailles United Methodist Church.

Nita and Creed were members of Order of the Eastern Star, she served as Grand Warder of the Grand Chapter of Missouri in 1999. Creed went on to be named Worthy Grand Patron for the State of Missouri in 2005.

—Adapted from an article in the Versailles Leader-Statesman, July 8, 1999 by Karen Mehl

Nita is survived by three children, son, Speed Marriott and his wife Cathy of Overland Park, KS; daughter, Shirley Marriott Harryman and her husband, Keith, of Kansas City, MO; daughter, Lea Marriott Simmons, and her husband, James of Lake Ozark, MO; four grandchildren, Ashley Borniger and her husband Chris of Wichita, KS, Bryan Creed Marriott and his wife Lyndsay, of Prairie Village, KS, Andrea Edgar of Versailles, MO and Austin Edgar of Lake Ozark, MO and two great-grandchildren, Creed Colburn and Elena Borniger.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 Noon, Monday, January 25th, at the Versailles United Methodist Church with Pastor Lora Cunningham officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Monday, at the church. Inurnment will be held at a later date in the Versailles Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Morgan County Historical Society

to be used for the preservation of the museum.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

# Cemetery Details

## Versailles Cemetery

550 Clay Road  
Versailles, MO 65084

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 25.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Versailles United Methodist Church  
201 N. Monroe St.  
Versailles, MO 65084

## Service

**JAN 25.** 12:00 PM (CT)

Versailles United Methodist Church  
201 N. Monroe St.  
Versailles, MO 65084

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss, I truly enjoyed Jaunita. She was very kind hearted and had such a light and playful spirit about her. I enjoyed taking care of her at GSCC.

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**Amy Blankenship** - January 24, 2016 at 08:50 AM

MD

“ I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I had so many fun times with Lea and staying at your house when we were growing up. Your mom was a wonderful lady. I remember all of the times at Eastern Star that both of our parents were apart of. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



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**Mary Ellen Dunnaway** - January 23, 2016 at 09:17 PM