



Boaleio Cowan

September 15, 1935 - March 2, 2025

Boaleio “Vilai” Cowan of Henryetta, Oklahoma was called home to be with the Lord on March 2nd, 2025. Born in Sipsongpanna, China on September 15th, 1935, Ms. Cowan passed peacefully from this life into Heavenly eternity at the age of 90.

Her parents were Saeng and Kum Kumlue. Vilai’s grandfather, the former King of Sipsongpanna, and his family were forced to flee the country in 1938 due to political unrest, when Princess Vilai was just 3 years old. Her mother carried her and trekked on foot to Thailand, where Vilai was raised. In 1967, at the age of 32, she met her beloved Joseph Cowan, whom she married less than one year later. Together, they traveled wherever Joe’s work called them, eventually landing in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It was there that they attended London Bridge Baptist Church in 1980, where Vilai made the most important decision of her life - to follow Jesus as her Lord and savior and to be baptized.

Vilai and Joe settled in Henryetta 8 years later, in 1988. Beyond faith and family, Vilai treasured life’s simple pleasures. She loved tossing a fishing line in the water, using whatever she could find for bait - even popcorn. The same skillful hands that could reel in dinner often created intricately designed clothes and blankets. Her garden was always bountiful and she never let anyone leave without sharing the harvest. A natural storyteller, she had a gift for bringing humor and wisdom through the many tales she could spin up - often leaving the listener in tears of laughter. She brought to the dinner table some of the most extravagant meals, only to be followed up by a fierce game of dominoes. She was a force to be reckoned with in the game and was, arguably, the reigning champion of the family. Although no one really knows who was better, what is certain is that their games were filled with laughter and the unspoken understanding that the time spent together was more important than who won the game.

The Cowans faithfully attended the First Presbyterian Church in Henryetta for many years. Vilai’s unwavering faith and devotion to the Lord were a testament to God’s amazing grace. Her legacy of reflecting Christ’s steadfast love and kindness will endure in the lives

of her kids, grandkids, great grandkids, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and countless friends.

In celebration of Vilai's incredible life, a memorial service will be held on March 14th at 2:00pm at Chrystal Springs Retirement Village, located at 2301 W. Main St. in Henryetta, OK. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Clarehouse, the hospice house in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that cared for Vilai in the last month of her life, completely free of charge.

Though her loss is met with great sadness, we do not grieve without hope, for we know that Vilai now rests in the loving arms of Jesus. "Well done, good and faithful servant."
(Matthew 25:23)

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Crystal Springs Chapel
2301 W Main St
Henryetta, OK 74437

Tribute Wall

EM

“ I only got to know Mrs. Cowan over the last 2 years but she was a beautiful soul! I will greatly miss seeing her and hearing about her very interesting life.



Emily - March 10, 2025 at 04:28 PM

DH

“ She loved my Uncle Chub with all her heart and soul. She was an amazing cook. She loved to tell funny stories. She called my Mom Martha Voegle her Sister and my Grandparents Mama and Papa. Now she is with them all plus her Son Anek. RIP and we love u Aunt Vilie.
Your Niece and Nephew Dianna and Ron Hancock

Dianna Hancock - March 05, 2025 at 11:11 PM

TF

“ The Sharp Family purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Boaleio Cowan.



The Sharp Family - March 05, 2025 at 08:00 PM

TF

“ The Sharp Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Boaleio Cowan.

The Sharp Family - March 05, 2025 at 08:00 PM