

Westbrook

Featured Resident



Doris Brownsberger

Doris Brownsberger was born in Springfield, MO, to Roy and Nora Todd. She grew up in Buffalo, MO, with her two sisters and four brothers. Growing up, all the children were expected to help take care of the large family garden. She and her sister also had to clean house while her mother did all the laundry. Doris liked swimming, playing in the woods and participating in community center classes. She attended school all twelve years in Buffalo graduating from Buffalo High. Her favorite classes were the secretarial skills such as typing and shorthand. During high school and for a year after, she worked in the restaurant in Buffalo.

In 1952, she moved to Kansas City in search of a job. She went to work at Hallmark Cards as an order checker. While working at Hallmark, she met a young man named David Brownsberger. They became friends. He eventually asked her out, which kind of surprised her. They dated for six months, were engaged for three months and were married in 1958 and moved to Raytown. Doris continued to work at Hallmark until her first child was born. Randy was born in 1963, Sandra in 1965 and Gary was born in 1968. The family moved in 1968 to Kansas City North, close to Metro North Mall. Sandra was born with mild retardation. She attended Maple Woods, a school for the developmentally challenged. Randy and Gary were both involved in baseball, basketball, football and boxing, which kept the family busy. Doris was also active in the Catholic Church – first St. Charles, then Holy Family and currently she is a member of the Church of the Annunciation. She taught the pre-school class and still today loves little children.

When Gary started first grade, Doris went back to work at Hallmark. David worked 8am to 4pm at Hallmark and Doris worked 3pm to 12am. They didn't see a lot of each other but the children were only home for about half an hour a day by themselves. As the kids got older and left home, David and Doris moved a few more times over the years – to Nashua, then to three acres in Liberty and finally to the Shadowbrook subdivision here in Kearney. Doris retired after twelve years at Hallmark, which gave her a total of 24 years of service. David retired a year later; he had worked at Hallmark for 42 years.

David and Doris weren't really interested in traveling after retirement. They had done their traveling before having children going to California, Michigan, Wyoming and Canada. They did take a trip to Vegas for a week to visit friends. They enjoyed going to the boats and gambling together. David liked to hunt (mostly quail) and fish. Doris said she got very good at dressing out crappie. David had had polio as a teenager. After retirement, it returned in the form of post polio syndrome. It caused several health issues for him and he passed away in 2007 due to a heart attack.

Doris used to love shopping for antiques and embroidering tea towels and scarves. She had back surgery which did not go well and has left her in constant pain. She says if you have to have surgery, always get a second opinion. She doesn't let the pain stop her from doing some things for herself, but it does limit what she can do. She moved to Westbrook in February of this year. She says it's a nice place with friendly people. If you want to be alone, you can be but if you want company, you can always find someone to visit. She enjoys watching cooking and craft shows as well as westerns on TV. Both of her sons were married and she has two grandsons, a granddaughter and a great grandson. Her daughter, Sandra, lives in a group home and works for McDonalds.

I could go on forever about how wonderful Westbrook was to not only my mother, but to our family as well. They put our mind at ease, and we knew we didn't have to worry. We loved the staff, as did our mother.—Joan P

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