



# THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

February 5, 2023/ Vol 13

*sja* PHOTOGRAPHY  
Photographer Sarah Mattingly, D.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH

Chamber of Commerce  
Online Auction  
February 5-9

?

**Who was Carter  
Woodson?**

**No Cheating!  
Answer on page 4**

*Celebrate*  
**Black**  
HISTORY  
*month*

## DOWN AT THE DEPOT

### Coach Hemphill, The Rainbow Man

Leroy Douglass Hemphill was born September 19, 1920. Back in the day when people could depend upon extended families to help raise nieces, nephews or grandchildren, he was lucky enough to be reared by his grandparents, here in Drumright. He was raised by Reverend and Mrs. A. H. Davidson. Leroy attended and graduated from Dunbar School. Down at the depot, we have old photos and school record books displaying his successes as a good student and a good athlete. This is where Leroy Hemphill's story began.

At Dunbar in Drumright, Leroy became a star athlete. Mr. Joe Sebastian Johnson was the principal and in the late 1930s, Mr. Johnson added high school boys' basketball to the

curriculum and became the coach. Leroy excelled at basketball. In 1938, Leroy led Dunbar to the Cimarron Valley Athletic Association Championship. This team won the championship, even though Dunbar School had no gym in which to practice and they were not allowed to use the gym at the white high school.

Leroy's fame grew and he was recruited to play football at Langston University on an athletic scholarship. He lettered in football there and again, was a star player. In 1942, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Industrial Arts. His goal was to become an Industrial Arts teacher and a basketball coach. Joe S. Johnson, who had coached Leroy in high school at

Dunbar in Drumright, was now the Principal at Cushing's Booker T. Washington High School. Leroy was hired to coach basketball and teach shop classes. His position as head coach there lasted for 13 years, netting well over 400 wins in basketball, while losing less than 50 games. His teams won Class "C" State basketball championships 9 out of 13 times, District Championship 11 out of 13 times, and A, B and C Championships 8 times. They also won the National Negro High School Invitational Tournament Championship in Tennessee State University in Nashville, twice, and third place once.

With such an illustrious record, when integration came in 1956, Leroy Hemphill was hired at Cushing High School as an assistant basketball and football coach. He continued to teach shop classes. By 1960, he was teaching shop classes at Cushing Junior High and High School, while remaining an assistant coach.

Coach Hemphill (as he was always called) married Eloise Muck, from Cushing. She also graduated from Langston University, and held a Bachelor of Science Degree. They had two children, Douglass and Lisa. He continued his education and received a Master's Degree in Industrial Arts Education from

Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Leroy was very active in the community and participated in the Masonic Lodge, the Iota Lambda Sigma Fraternity, the Cushing Chamber of Commerce and even served for a time as an Auxiliary Cushing Police officer.

Coach Hemphill would coach at Cushing High School until 1969. At that time, he left and began working at Langston University as an Assistant Basketball coach and Technology Department instructor. In 1975, he returned to Cushing as a counselor and Industrial Arts teacher. He was soon promoted to the position of Assistant Principal.

But, he became ill in 1979 and died unexpectedly on August 21, 1979 at the age of 58. Leroy Douglas Hemphill is buried in Silver Star Cemetery in Cushing, Oklahoma. Hemphill Park was established in the northwest area of Cushing to honor this special individual.



Coach Leroy Douglass Hemphill

There are still many individuals in the Drumright/Cushing community that remember Coach Hemphill and his winning ways. Jon Lee Tuttle remembered this quote from Coach Hemphill. "You have to learn to be like a rainbow man. You have to learn to be all colors in this world in order to get along with others of all different colors." We should all learn from the wisdom of Coach Hemphill.

By: Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil

# **DRUMRIGHT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

To maintain transparency and open communication with our community, we'd like to provide you with an overview of the Drumright Museum's financial status and shed light on some challenges we are currently facing.

Below, you will find a spreadsheet detailing the sources of income that sustain our museum. We believe in keeping our community informed about the financial aspects of our organization, and this breakdown illustrates the key contributors to our operational budget.

The primary sources of income for the Drumright Museum are as follows:

1. **Corporate Sponsorship:** We are grateful for the support we receive from corporate sponsors who recognize the value of preserving our local oilfield history. You will notice that sponsorships have declined from \$5000 in 2019, to \$1500 in 2023.
2. **Individual Memberships:** The engagement of individuals in our community is crucial, and we appreciate the ongoing support from our members. Memberships in 2019 were \$875, \$905 in 2020, \$0 in 2021, \$2225 in 2022 and \$645 in 2023. An individual membership is only \$10/year, family and other membership levels are \$25, \$50, \$100 and a lifetime membership of \$500.
3. **City of Drumright Gift:** We are fortunate to receive a monthly gift of \$700 from the City of Drumright, which provides funding to hire a host for the museum. This job is such a crucial part of the museum, but the compensation is a mere \$7.25/hour for 20 hours/week and finding someone to commit for this amount is challenging. Thankfully, our current host enjoys his time at the museum and is willing to go above and beyond his pay.
4. **Grants:** The museum has been fortunate to receive grants from The Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council. These grants have played a crucial role in sustaining the museum, supporting its operations, adding storage to our oil room, providing funds for lawncare, hiring a custodian, and raising the hourly salary of \$7.25/hour to \$10/hour for one year. Unfortunately, these grants have come to an end. While we are immeasurably grateful for the support we've received from these organizations, the conclusion of these funding streams poses significant challenges. No longer will there be funds for a custodian, for lawncare or to provide our host with \$10/hour. Efforts to find and apply for grants are ongoing.
5. **Donations:** Contributions of time and money from community members and beyond play a vital role in sustaining our museum. Unfortunately, over the past few years, these have also declined.
6. **Events / Fundraisers:** At the time of this writing, the Museum and the Drumright Boomtown Theater just wrapped up The Frisco Polar Express. Financial information will be available in next month's newsletter. In addition, the Museum Board already has four 2024 fundraisers in their first stages.

We appreciate your time and consideration and welcome questions, suggestions, and solutions.

**REVIEW OF NET INCOME**

	Jan-Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2019
Total Income	\$ 17,719.64	\$ 25,884.56	\$ 28,932.85	\$ 15,015.93	\$ 22,038.19
Less: Expenses	\$ (27,581.01)	\$ (31,723.08)	\$ (17,626.72)	\$ (15,898.32)	\$ (17,808.39)
Less: Grants	\$ (973.76)	\$ (5,631.80)	\$ (10,400.00)	\$ (15.37)	
Net Income	\$ (8,887.58)	\$ (11,470.32)	\$ 906.13	\$ (897.76)	\$ 4,229.80
Corp Spon	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 5,000.00
Utilities	\$ 9,496.36	\$ 8,795.65	\$ 4,863.94	\$ 4,296.18	\$ 4,911.75
Wages	\$ 8,876.19	\$ 8,162.56	\$ 6,326.43	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 3,201.66
Events	\$ 2,214.00	\$ 2,295.00	\$ 1,983.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 5,759.00
	Pancake/Bingo	Pancake	Popcorn/Pancake	Tupperware	Rifle Raffle
Event Expense					\$ (2,052.85)

Revised 1-1-24

## **CARTER WOODSON**

The son of former slaves, Carter Woodson was born in Virginia on December 18, 1875. He was an American historian, author, journalist, and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Woodson was the second African American to obtain a PhD degree from Harvard University. He is the only person whose parents were enslaved in the United States to obtain a PhD in history.

In February 1926, he launched a celebration known as "Negro History Week," the precursor to Black History Month. Dr. Woodson has been called the "father of black history."

Woodson died on April 3, 1950 in Washington, D.C., at the age of 74.



Photo Courtesy of Appalachian History

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2024 Drumright Chamber Banquet:

The 2024 Drumright Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet was held @ Tidewater Winery January 25, 2024. There was a big crowd this year, maybe one of the biggest that Drumright Chamber has ever had! The night started out with a silent auction that ran through the course of the evening.

The President Angela Titus and Angie Bengston from Tidewater greeted everyone and helped seat everyone. The meal was catered by none other than Joseph's Fine Foods and the crew was amazing as the meal.

Entertainment was provided by our very own Gene Collier. His tribute song to Myrna and Rick Sellers was fantastic. There were a few tears shed.

The prayer was provided by Brad Coates from the Community Church of the Nazarene.

The MC of the night was Judge Mike Gibson and he is always a hoot! He started the evening out by recognizing several guests in the crowd and thanking those that helped the Drumright Chamber of Commerce to get where it is now.

Citizen of the Year was awarded to Rick Creekmore! He is a very deserving man for this award. He does so much for this community. So when you see Rick out and about please congratulate him for his service to this community. This man is amazing and we all think so much of him.

Next awards went to Jenni Christy for Small Business of the Year and Friendliest employee of the Year. Jenni is an amazing person and we are so excited to get her back in business in the community.

Business person of the year was awarded to Jamey Martin from Joseph's Fine Foods. Jamey has been an amazing person in our community and his business skills have set a standard for all business owners to follow.

Most Helpful citizen went to Amie Davis! Amie has been here almost 4 years now and is one of the most helpful people around. She has done so many good things for our community and those in it.

Volunteer of the year award goes to Adrian Dennis. Adrian is the daughter of JJ and Angela Titus and helps her mom at the chamber from decorating to being cleaning. Adrian helps with anything Angela asks of her and it doesn't go unappreciated.

This next award went to our very own Drumright Tornado Football team and Coaches. The coaches and this team brought this community together in an already tough year and they represented the Drumright Public School and Community with respect and pride. We are super proud of them all!

This last award is a retirement award for our City Manager! USAF Colonel Mark Whinnery leading diverse teams to mission accomplishment in a wide variety of dynamic and complex environments. He is an exceptional communicator effectively collaborating with customers, peers, citizens, subordinates, and senior leaders. Mark will be missed along with all his expertise in this community. Congratulations Mark on your retirement.

The Drumright Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following for their part in making this night a success:

Blonde Ambitions

Right Path

Godofredos

Tidewater Winery

Joseph's Fine Foods

All those that donated to the silent auction.

All those that stayed and helped tear down all the chairs and tables, we so appreciate you.

GO Big or Go Home! We went big this year! Thank you to this community for all your support!

Thank You

Angela Titus President of the Drumright Chamber of Commerce



# Obituaries

## **Junia Mae Blackwell**

Graveside funeral rites for Drumright resident, June Blackwell, were held 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 26th in the Drumright Oak Hill Cemetery. Rev. Monty McGee of the Drumright First Baptist Church officiated. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Junia was born in Drumright, Oklahoma on April 22, 1928 to the late Grady Wood & Lorene (Reid) Wood. She passed from this life in Tulsa on January 22, 2024 at the age of 95 years & 9 months. Known as June to many, she was raised and educated in Drumright & was a member of the 1946 graduating class. While still in High School, she married Jimmie Blackwell on February 18, 1945. They made their home in Drumright & raised 2 daughters: Sharon & Beverly. June had worked some outside the home, but was mostly a stay home mom. During her lifetime, she was very active in her church, serving wherever there was a need. Her kind disposition & loving heart made her a mom & grandma to many over the years. She will be greatly missed. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her Husband: Jimmie; her 2 Daughters: Sharon Blackwell & Beverly Vassar; Grandson: Trey Vice; & 2 Sisters: Wilma Mills & Marie Wiley.

Her remaining family includes Grandchildren: Connie & Rob Geresi – Brian & Shelly Endicott – Jayne & Jeff Cooper – Nicci & Skeeter Whidby – Derek & Christina Vassar; 9 Great Grandchildren – 4 Great Great Grandchildren; plus numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, other relatives, and friends.



## **Caren Lynn Collins**

A memorial service for Claremore resident, Caren Collins, was held 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright. Rev. Mike Brannon of the Drumright First United Methodist Church officiated. Interment of her cremains will be held in Shamrock Cemetery at a later date. Cremation and funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Caren was born in Wichita, Kansas on October 29, 1956 to Richard Curry & Gloria (Glimp) Curry. She passed from this life in Tulsa on January 21, 2024 at the age of 67 years, 2 months, & 23 days. Caren was raised in Henrietta, Chickasha, & Drumright. She was a 1974 graduate of Drumright High School. She had worked as a receptionist in Healthcare until her retirement. For the past several years, she has lived in Claremore, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her Father: Richard Curry.

Her remaining family includes her Mother: Gloria Curry of Drumright; a Daughter: Sarah Lemmons & husband Bobby of Drumright; Grandchildren: Riley – Landen - & Reagan; Sister: Cathy Curry of Claremore; her best friend: Karen Keeth & her son Michael of Depew; plus several Cousins, other relatives, and friends.

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## **Tresa Ann Hulsman**

Tresa Ann Hulsman, former resident of Olive, passed from this life on January 12, 2024 at the age of 61 years, 9 months, & 10 days. No services are planned at this time. Cremation arrangements are entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Tresa was born in Yale, Oklahoma on April 2, 1962 to the late Harold Thomas & Linda (Woodward) Thomas. She was raised & educated in Olive & was a member of the 1981 graduating class. She moved to Oregon & stayed there for 10+ years. About 2 years ago, she moved to the Mannford area and for the past 4 years has resided in Cleveland. She was preceded in death by her Father: Harold Thomas; her Mother: Linda Parvin; Uncle: Larry Woodward; Sister: Kathy Haubecker; & Step-brother: Carry Parvin.

Her remaining family includes her Husband: Audie Benson of Cleveland; 2 CHILDREN: Eric Paul Hulsman & Chris Hulsman, II, both of Cushing; several grandchildren; an Aunt: Lucille Horst of Texas; Step-Father: Jerry Parvin of Jenks; Step-Sister: JeriAnn O'Dell of Oologah; Step-Brother: Toby Parvin of Kellyville; PLUS several Nieces - Nephews - & other relatives

## **Beverly Ann Lochary**

Funeral services for Drumright resident, Beverly Lochary, were held 1:30 p.m. Thursday, January 11th in the Drumright First Baptist Church with Rev. Monty McGee officiating. Interment followed in Highland Cemetery at Oilton, Oklahoma. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Beverly was born in Delaware, Oklahoma on September 4, 1938 to the late Bert Teel & Ola Mae (Manard) Teel. She passed from this life in Tulsa, Oklahoma on January 6, 2024 at the age of 85 years, 4 months, & 2 days. Beverly was raised & educated in Delaware and Nowata, Oklahoma. She married Jess Randolph Lochary, Jr. on November 5, 1956 & made their home in Nowata. In 1965, they moved to Oilton and raised their family. Beverly had worked in the restaurant business all of her life. She was a longtime waitress at Joseph's Fine Foods in Drumright for many years. She also worked at Naifeh's Deli in Cushing until her retirement. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband: Jess Lochary, Jr. in 1984; her longtime companion: Jerry Hallman in 2020; & 4 Brothers: Bert, Jr. - Tommy - Edward - & Elmer Teel.

Her remaining family includes her CHILDREN: Gary Lochary & wife Susan of Chickasha - Sherry Anderson & husband Billy of Drumright; GRANDCHILDREN: Krissy & Brett - Becky & Cliff - Will - Coby - Holly & Alex - Jesse & Cullen; 12 Great Grandchildren; PLUS numerous Nieces - Nephews - Cousins - other relatives - & friends.





# Obituaries

## **Terry Lee Ludtke**

Memorial services for Cushing resident, Terry Ludtke were held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 13th at the Crossway Church with Rev. Robert Wisnant officiating. Cremation services were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Terry was born in Worland, Wyoming on August 13, 1960 to Robert Leroy & Mary Clairece (Ball) Ludtke. He lost his long battle with cancer, in his home with his wife by his side on January 8, 2024 at the age of 64 years, 4 months, & 26 days. Terry moved to Oklahoma in 1993 and loved to fish with his friends & family on the farm in Agra, ride his Harley and live life to the fullest. Terry was preceded in death by his Father: Robert Leroy Ludtke, Grandparents: Fredrick & Goldie Ludtke, and Thomas & Lola Ball, Nephew: Robert Shifferens.

He is survived by his Wife: Julie of the home, Children: Justin, Nathan, Joshua, Zebulon, & T.J., his many grandchildren, Sisters: Tammy Spracklen, & Tracy Spracklen, Brother: Timmy Ludtke, and his Mother: Mary Ludtke.

## **Wilson Robert "Bill" Moulds**

A memorial service for Drumright resident, Bill Moulds, was held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 15th in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright. Rev. Brad Coats of the Drumright Community Church of the Nazarene officiated. Cremation & funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Bill was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on December 5, 1953 to the late James Ellis Moulds & Joycelyn (Bendich) Moulds. He passed from this life at his residence on January 7 th , 2024 at the age of 70 years, 1 month, & 2 days. Bill was raised & educated in New Orleans where he spent the majority of his younger life. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1971 and was discharged in 1975. Bill moved to Drumright in the early 1990's. He married Vonda Lea Williams on January 17, 1994 in Eureka Springs, AR and they remained together until her death in 2021. Bill & Vonda made their home in Drumright. He had worked as a reserve Drumright police officer for many years but his primary job was driving a truck. He loved to ride motorcycles and travel. He was preceded in death by his parents & a wife.

His remaining family includes his CHILDREN: Gina & Scott Shores of Florida - Amanda & Charlie Farless of Cushing - Jessica Thompson of Drumright - Kala Thompson of Drumright; GRANDCHILDREN: Sara - Samuel - Ian - Skye - Danica - Paul - & Daegan; 1 Brother: John & Mable Moulds of Texas; a Brother-In-Law: Wayne Williams of Drumright; a Sister-In-Law: Karla & David Dawson of Drumright; PLUS Nieces - Nephews - Cousins - other relatives - & friends.



# Obituaries

## **Jonathan Albert Ogle**

Jon Ogle was like an apostle of Jesus plucked out of the New Testament and dropped into the Wild West.

With character instilled on his family Farm, he left the rolling hills of Oklahoma for a desert; on a mission from God.

He carried a vision in his heart, that he shared with his wife, Toni.

God blessed them with children and their family grew. Joni Jean, Jonathan David, and Kay-Lee, his grandchildren Pearl Scout and Brave Sterling, and Jordan James and Amy.

A stranger to no one, he shepherded many church flocks including Ralston, Trinity, Gateway, and First Family.

Although he left the Farm, the Rockin' O never left him. He wore his family legacy like a feather in his hat, with his mom and dad soaring over him and his sister, Susie, looking out for him.

His life was a canvas painted by the Almighty, and we celebrate him as a father, a husband, and a man after God's own heart.



## **Richard A. "Rick" Sellers, III**

Richard A. "Rick" Sellers III was born on September 8, 1956, in Norman, Oklahoma. He slipped his Earthly bonds after an extended illness on January 13, 2024, at St. Frances Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 67 years, 4 months, & 5 days. His loving wife, Myrna, was by his side, as she had been since 1979, when the young couple were married in a service held at Cayuga Splitlog Mission Church, near Grove, Oklahoma.

Rick was raised in Grove and graduated from Grove High School in 1974. Following that, he attended Oklahoma University in Norman, where he studied Petroleum Geology. After college, Rick moved to Drumright, Oklahoma, where he worked alongside his father in the oil field. He would remain active in the oil and gas business for the next four decades.

Continuing his work alongside his father, they were challenged by the lack of service rigs to complete and maintain the oil production process. Always a problem solver, Rick began building the service rigs and put them to work on their wells. Soon, they were providing a much-needed service to other companies around the region. Rick ran several oil field service companies for many years, including Creek County Well Service, Osage County Well Service and Payne County Well Service. In 1992, Rick sold the companies and went back

# Obituaries

into oil & gas production partnering with his father in a company called Double Eagle Petroleum. After a downturn in the oil business, Rick and Myrna explored other ways to make a living. They looked at the animal park at Arbuckle Wilderness in Davis, Oklahoma, and Dog Patch USA, a shuttered theme park near Harrison, Arkansas that still had a working fish hatchery and a spring water bottling plant. The couple also looked at several marinas near Grove, but the draw of the oil patch was strong, and Rick soon teamed with his father again in the formation of Southwest Petroleum Corporation. At this point, the Sellers had the equipment and manpower to do their own thing in the oilfield. Not wanting to be solely dependent on oil, Rick went on to diversify into the gas side of the business with the formation of Keystone Gas in 2000, which employed many people from across the region.

Always an adventurer at heart, in 1983 Rick traveled to the Petén rainforest in Guatemala to drill oil wells for El Presenente José Efraín Ríos Montt, the country's de-facto leader. The mission wasn't without risk as there was great unrest in the country and the deadline for completion was tight and needed to be finished before rebels and death squads closed in. Rick contracted a rare fungal disease called Valley Fever on that journey into the ancient tropical rainforests which did not show itself until twenty years later. It negatively impacted his health for the rest of his life.

In addition to his work in the oil and gas business, Rick was passionate about many things, and he enjoyed working with others to bring those interests to life. In 2014, he worked with automotive designer, Clint Fisher, to open Dangerous Motors in Cushing. The company offers custom car rebuilds and hot rods of every description. Rick also purchased KUSH AM 1600 radio in Cushing and worked with manager and "KUSH Girl" Molly Payne, and programmer and on-air personality Hugh "Doc" Foley, to upgrade and bring the historic station into the modern era. The radio outlet not only serviced the community with local news and sports but also became a leader in Oklahoma broadcasting as a reporting station for the Texas Regional Radio Report, the Americana Music Association and CDX TRACtion airplay charts. In 2022, Rick secured an FM license for KUSH, and he personally climbed in the lift to place the new transmitter at the top of the tower! Rick was always a big supporter of musicians and artists, and he spent several years partnered in an independent record label, Way Out West Records, with Clif Doyal of Nashville, and local talents, Tim and Shawna Russell. Shawna and label mates LiveWire both made waves in the country music and Texas/Red Dirt genres in the U.S. and in Europe.

Rick had many hobbies. He enjoyed building Condor Custom boats, late sixties and seventies muscle cars and motorcycles, and collected comic books and oil field memorabilia. A great marksman, he also won numerous shooting competitions. Rick took immense pride in his local community, and he gave back in many ways. In addition to being a longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce, he and Myrna worked together to make sure that the Drumright city parks had working restrooms, electricity and the grass mowed. He saw to it that the flags flown on main street were replaced regularly and streetlights were maintained. A big history buff, Rick also loved preserving the past and was a member of the Drumright Historical Museum. He also cared deeply about the people of his community and was always ready to help those in need and give them a hand up. He worked tirelessly to bring a doctor and a top-of-the-line medical facility to Drumright and helped spearhead the building of the Drumright Regional Hospital.

For many years, Rick and Myrna hosted the Drumright 4th of July Festival on their ranch north of town. It originally began as a small company party and over the course of the next 20 years it evolved into the go-to & July 4th event in the state of Oklahoma. It was a favorite summer tour stop for dozens of major and regional concert acts. Rick had more than a little bit in common with the great American showman, P.T. Barnum, and he wanted his festival to be unmatched in its grandiosity, flash, and razzle dazzle. And so, it was. The event

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featured stilt walkers, flyovers, aerial parachute divers, helicopter landings, petting zoo, children's area, free parking, free food, and beer. The annual gathering also featured massive fireworks display that rivaled some major US cities. But the music was the icing on the cake for Rick, and each year the star power continued to grow, and included many well-known performers from country, Red Dirt, pop, and rock music, including B.J. Thomas, Roy Clark, Head East, Kix Brooks, Cody Canada and the Departed, and others. Rick Sellers was a larger-than-life figure. His zest for life was only matched by his kind heart and adventurous spirit. He loved his community, friends, and family, and in return, he was loved by many. Rick was preceded in death by his Father: Richard A. "Dick" Sellers; his Mother: Kay Sellers; a Brother: Bret Sellers; his Father-In-Law: Alvin Cobble; & 2 Brothers-In-Law: Brett Cobble & Terry Cobble.

He is survived by his Wife: Myrna of the home; Sister: Stephanie K. Sellers & spouse Norma of Warner; 2 Foster Children: Dewayne Castleberry of Drumright - Amber Hartley of Tulsa; & their children: Ashton - Gauge - Courtney & Dalton - Payton - & Gabriel; Plus many Nieces - Nephews - Great Nieces & Nephews - other relatives & loving friends.

A celebration of life was held 2:00 p.m. Friday, January 19th in Oak Grove Baptist Church near Cushing, Oklahoma. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.



## **Justin Willard Studebaker**

Funeral services for Olive resident, Justin Studebaker, were held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 13th at Olive First Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Studebaker of New Bethel Acres Baptist Church of Byng, Oklahoma; Rev. Stewart Bedillion of Rayville, Louisiana; and Rev. George "Marty" Brock, III officiating. Interment followed in the Stinnett Memorial Cemetery in Pawnee County, near Keystone. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Justin was born in Hominy, Oklahoma on November 24, 1952 to the late Willard Payne and Vivian Mae (Zickefoose) Studebaker. He passed from this life at his home on January 8, 2024 at the age of 71 years, 1 month & 15 days. Justin was raised and educated in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. Always striving for excellence, he graduated from Charles Page High School as valedictorian of his class. He then attended Tulsa Junior College & the University of Oklahoma while holding down a full time job with Safeway grocery stores. Justin enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and continued to set a high standard for himself. He completed Officer Candidate School and served as a medic for seven years. In May of 1985, Justin welcomed his beloved son, Grant, into his life. He devoted himself to the care and raising of Grant, working diligently to instill in him a work ethic that was principled & God-honoring. On January 17, 1998 Justin married the love of

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his life , Lee Ann Spain. After her retirement from teaching they were able to travel together for his work in the grocery business, for which he had a forty seven year career, both in retail and wholesale. As a self-taught auto mechanic, Justin greatly enjoyed the challenge of analyzing a problem and coming up with a solution. He took pride in doing any task he tackled to the best of his ability and genuinely believed any job worth doing was worth doing well. He fully embraced 1st Corinthians 10:31, "whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God." He delighted in all things political and in debating with others. He kept up with local, state, and national politics and had a great ability to remember facts and statistics. He was a formidable opponent in any political conversation. In addition to his parents, Justin was preceded in death by a Brother-In-Law: Peter Padilla.

He is survived by his Wife: Lee Ann, of the home; Son: Dr. Grant Studebaker & wife, Abbey, of Jackson, Tennessee; 3 Grandchildren: Bryleigh - Landon, and Millie; 2 Sisters: Gayle Hodson and husband Merrill of Olive - Joyce Padilla of Dallas, Oregon; 2 Brothers: Jerry Studebaker & wife Lou Jean of Francis - Tim Studebaker of Sand Springs; an Aunt; and numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and other relatives.

## **Shirley Anne Stump**

A memorial service for Drumright resident, Shirley Stump, was held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 3rd in the sanctuary of the Drumright First Baptist Church. Rev. Monty McGee will officiate. Cremation & funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Shirley was born in Drumright, Oklahoma on August 11, 1935 to the late Thelmar Patterson & Ruby (Roberts) Patterson. She passed from this life at the Drumright Regional Hospital on January 20th , 2024 at the age of 88 years, 5 months, & 9 days. Shirley was raised & educated in Drumright & was a 1954 graduate of Drumright High School. She married Otis Cleo Stump in Pampa, Texas on June 6, 1954. They made their home in Drumright & raised their family. Shirley became an educator and taught elementary school in Drumright until her retirement. She was a longtime active member in the Drumright First Baptist Church, a member of PEO Sisterhood, an artist & painter, & loved spending time with her family and grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a Son: Gary Stump; & a Daughter: Cheryl Lawyer.

Her remaining family includes her loving husband: Otis Stump of the home; Son: Craig Stump of Drumright; Grandchildren: Zack - Tom - Gary - Jake - Ross - Paul - Chloe - Talie - & Sadie; Plus numerous great Grandchildren; 2 sisters: Donna Gramh of Texas - Sammie Smith of New Mexico; PLUS several Nieces - Nephews - Cousins - other relatives - & friends.

# Obituaries

## **Bonnie June Sweeten**

Bonnie June McBride Sweeten Honey, Mom & Nannie was born on September 8, 1945 in Jennings, Oklahoma at the home of Jack and Elva McBride. She departed this life on January 5, 2024 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She was the 8th child and third daughter. She loved playing outside with her sisters and crawling around in the barn looking for new cat litters. She had special relationships with each of her siblings, from babysitting nieces and nephews to giggle times with her sisters. Bonnie loved to laugh. Bonnie loved school. She grew up a loyal Oilton Panther. She enjoyed spending time with friends, playing basketball and cheerleading.

In 1965 she married her forever love, John Sweeten from Oilton. On a leave from the army, they decided to get married one Friday and they were married the very next week. She started married life as a wife of a soldier in Vietnam. They have been married 58 years.

Bonnie worked at Economy Supply many years, starting early in high school. Later, she served 8 years as City Treasurer and Clerk. In 1984, John started his own pipeline company and Bonnie ran the office, sending payroll all over the United States. At 22, in 1967, she had her first child Kimberly, two years later Kelly came along and then in 1972 Karen was born. Bonnie's life was focused on her daughters, from making sure their ponytails were nice and tight to ironing their school skirts. When your husband works out of state, raising children falls completely on you. She was extremely busy keeping the three in line.

In 1991 she had a new name: Nannie. A name she loved the most. Grand babies were her delight. At Christmas you could tell with the mounds of toys wrapped. In 2003 her and John hit the pipeline travel again, having fun exploring new places. Even helping the grands with flat Stanley/Stephanie projects taking pictures all over the United States.

In retirement, Bonnie enjoyed time with family and going to lunch with her Oilton Panther friends. However, she got the most joy and love watching her grandsons play football and taking her granddaughters shopping.

In 2012 Bonnie became a great grandmother to Blaze and soon added Boston and Brooklyn June to the mix. To know her was to love her and she will forever be missed but her legacy lives on.

Bonnie is survived by her husband John Sweeten. Daughters Kim and husband Gregg Boepple of Sapulpa, Kelly and husband Jon Watkins of Stillwater and Karen and husband Lance Stephenson of Tulsa. Grandchildren Kiersten and husband Larry Litan of Jenks, Cassidy and husband Alan Wren of Glenpool, Jacob and wife Leslie Boepple of Dallas, Sterling and wife Victoria Watkins, their children Winston and Grace of Stillwater. Raegan Stephenson, Elle Stephenson and Lilly Stephenson all of Tulsa. Great Grands are Blaze, Boston and Brooklyn June. Sisters Linda Bowen of Sand Springs and Jana Philippe of Humble, Texas; Brother Doyle McBride of Tennessee. Many nieces and nephews.



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## **Carolyn Ann Reece**

Graveside rites for Drumright resident, Carolyn Reece, were held 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 11th in the Drumright Greenlawn Cemetery with Michael Davis of Michael's Funeral Home officiating. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home Drumright.

Carolyn was born in Palmdale, California on November 6, 1943 to the late Earl Otis Barnett & Ethel Viola (Odell) Barnett.. She passed from this life in Tulsa, Oklahoma on January 8, 2024 at the age of 80 years, 2 months, & 2 days. Carolyn was raised & educated in Lancaster, California & Boise, Idaho. She married Donald Reece in Drumright on March 5, 1964 & they made their home in Drumright. They remained together until his death in 2003. In addition to her parents & husband, she was preceded in death by 2 Sisters: Annie & Peggy.

Her remaining family includes 2 CHILDREN: Robert Reece & his wife Traci of Sapulpa - Dauna Ryker of Drumright; GRANDCHILDREN: Taylor Anne - Kamryn - Heidi - Kylie - & Liberty; and a Niece: Melissa Lee of Shamrock; PLUS several other relatives



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