



Iris Lilian Brownfield

April 6, 1926 - January 22, 2018

Iris Brownfield passed away January 22, 2018 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. She was born in Oldbury, England to Cyril William Millward and Florence Elsie (Parton) Millward. Iris was preceded in death by her parents Cyril and Florence; her husband James Willard (Jim) Brownfield, brother Cyril Bert Millward, and sister Muriel Hardin. She is survived by sister in law Eileen Millward of Purbrook, England; son Stephen Brownfield and his wife Claire of Salem, Oregon; daughter Janet McGrath and her husband Michael of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; niece Linda Hoffman and husband Wayne and family from Poteau, Oklahoma; nephew David Hardin and wife Debra and family also of Poteau; and niece Kathy Hodges and her husband David of Fort Smith, Arkansas; nieces in England Ann Bothamley, Helen Lee, and Sandra Hill; and niece Susan Nelson of New Zealand.

Iris was raised in the small village of Thatcham in the royal county of Berkshire, England. She developed lifelong, cherished relationships with family and friends in her youth. Iris lived through the dark times of WWII with blackouts, bombings, rationed food and petrol. Soldiers traumatized from Dunkirk healed while living in her family home. After her formal education, Iris worked in Daniel's Department Store where she made lifelong friends of coworkers. Iris met her husband Jim when he was serving in U.S. Army. Iris and Jim married June 2, 1945 in Thatcham. Just a few months after their wedding, Jim was shipped back to the U.S. on a troop transport and Iris emigrated six months later on the Queen Mary. Jim met her in New York and they travelled by bus to start their married life in Okmulgee. Iris became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1949. They raised Stephen and Janet on North Alabama Street in Okmulgee. They enjoyed 64 years of marriage before Jim's passing in 2009.

Iris's professional career began in 1958 as an assistant to accountant Robert E. Lee in the Commerce Building. She became a Certified Public Accountant while working for Mr. Lee and took on the business as her own upon his retirement. While running her business in the Commerce Building, she also became personal assistant to Lenox Oil Company's Lawrence Miller. Her office subsequently moved to the Enterprise Building, then to the McCulloch Building where Iris retired in 2011, at 85 years of age.

Iris enjoyed many of the things her long life had to offer. This included her work as an accountant, her home and the many treasures she collected, her garden with its flowers and trees, the many birds that visited her feeders, rabbits in the garden, the branching habit of trees, cloud shapes, anything “lovely”, visits from friends and family and especially visits from her family “back home” in England. The First Presbyterian Church was a huge part of Iris’s life as it was not only her place of worship, it was the place where many of her dearest friends brought her happiness with their mutual love for each other. Iris and Jim enjoyed traveling all over the United States and especially returning “back home” to England. Their visits to England were filled with passionate memories of her childhood and the war years, longing for the simpler village life, loving reunions with family and friends, and much, much more. Later in life, Iris enjoyed staying in various Oklahoma State Park cabins where she loved to watch wildlife and view the scenery. She also enjoyed driving out to Okmulgee Lake to enjoy the the lake, the spillway running over, the countryside and viewing wildlife. A little known fact is that she had a keen eye for spotting wildlife.

For Iris, friends made were friends for life. The family would like to thank all of these fine people not only for their friendship with Iris, but for the friendship they extended to the remainder of the family. We would like to thank the members of the First Presbyterian Church for the love they shared with our family and the endless support provided in times of need. We would also like to thank all of the fine caregivers from Okmulgee Hospital Home Health and Traditions Home Health who took care of Iris these past few years for their compassion and for the medical support that was necessary for her to remain in her beloved home. In particular, we want to thank the fine women who provided continual support for Iris these past few years for their compassion and the love they shared with our Mother. You gals know who we are referring to. Thank you also to the many fine friends and neighbors for their endless prayers and support.

Iris would enjoy knowing that memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church at 401 South Seminole, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to assist their mission of supporting the local community via Open Gate meals, support for the regional community via Goodland Boy’s Home and support for the international community via Heifer International as well as many other worthy causes.

Friends may visit the funeral home on Friday from 12:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. and the family will be present to greet visitors from 5:00 P.M. -7:00 P.M.

A funeral service will be held 2:00 P.M. Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the First

Presbyterian Church with Reverend J. Rodgers Spencer and Reverend Dr. Jeff Francis officiating. Interment will follow in the Okmulgee Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Mrs. Brownfield's Tribute Page of our website at www.mcclendon-winters.com

Cemetery

Okmulgee Cemetery

2601 South Wood Drive
Okmulgee, OK, 74447

Events

JAN **Viewing** 12:00PM - 08:00PM

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McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - Okmulgee
303 E. 7th Street, Okmulgee, OK, US, 74447

JAN **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - Okmulgee
303 E. 7th Street, Okmulgee, OK, US, 74447

JAN **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

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First Presbyterian Church
401 South Seminole, Okmulgee, OK, US

Comments



“ Iris was in Wednesday Morning Music Club. She loved music and contributed many poems as well as hosting Christmas parties for us where she sat a lovely table and served her wonderful traditional wassail. What a joy! She truly made everyone feel like family.

Linda Bacon - February 01, 2018 at 11:55 AM



“ Our prayers and thoughts are with the family. Mrs. Brownfield did our taxes for many years. She was so thoughtful and helpful. Always made us feel like we were her only clients. We trusted her completely. When she retired it was hard for us because she was more to us than than a tax person. She was very special.

Ted and Marilyn Jackson - January 30, 2018 at 06:32 PM



“ Darla L'Allier lit a candle in memory of Iris Lilian Brownfield



Darla L'Allier - January 26, 2018 at 10:01 PM



“ Dear Brownfield Family -

I remember Mr. and Mrs. Brownfield well from the Presbyterian Church. They were always there and active. Mrs. Brownfield was a very sweet lady. That is how I will always remember her. Prayers for peace and warm memories for you in a life well lived.

Darrel Dominick
Stillwater, OK

Darrel Dominick - January 26, 2018 at 06:42 PM



“ On behalf of my sister Maureen and brother David the 'Kingh' family in Thatcham, Newbury, and California would like to let you know that we will be thinking of you all on Saturday 27th January.

Mum and Dad always enjoyed Iris's letter and all the news about your family life and I know Iris and Jim always enjoyed hearing about life in

Lorraine x



Lorraine Brown - January 26, 2018 at 03:14 PM



“ Ive just written something for Auntie Iris and forgot to add our Mum,So the message is from Mum (Eileen Millward) Ann,Helen,Susan,Sandra.Lots of Love xxxxx

Ann Bothamley - January 26, 2018 at 03:03 PM



“ We here in Buxton,Macclesfield and Manchester England,will be thinking of Stephen and Janet and all the Family,tomorrow Jan 27th.We are all very sad about Auntie Iris passing away.we were never able to go to visit our American Family,a lot of whom we've never met,but all of you are in our thoughts and we think of you often. So of course we didn't see Auntie Iris very often,only when she and Uncle Jim,Stephen,Claire came to see us a few years ago.I also remember when I was little and the Family came to stay with us at the Thatcham house.I know Janet through Facebook but we've never met.Auntie Iris have a lovely Family and I know they looked after her well.She was a lovely lady.I was only looking the other day of the wedding photo of Iris and Jim that was taken in the front garden of Park Lane in Thatcham?Mum and Dad were both in the photo as well.So from Ann Helen Susan and Sandra ,our thoughts are with Auntis Iris and all her Family in America.xxxx Lots of Love xxxx

Ann Bothamley - January 26, 2018 at 02:44 PM



“ Ms. Brownfield, our paths crossed when I still worked at Okmulgee Vision Clinic. Don't think I had been there long as their receptionist when we first met. You gave me encouragement and you loved to share about the people you had met in your life and how much I would enjoy the people I would meet in this new job. Okmulgee Vision Clinic has been very good to me and the people have been a joy, you were one of my favorites and I will truly miss you.



Janette Johnson - January 26, 2018 at 11:57 AM



“ We have shared family with Iris and Jim for many years. Both kind souls. Their son has been our son through marriage to our daughter, Claire. We regret Iris' passing but are content with the peace she now has, she was a strong willed person with grace and she deserves her rest. We know best her son, Stephen, and we know the love and effort he showed in fulfilling her wishes these past years. We know his Dad would be filled with pride and admiration for the son who worked so diligently on the behalf of his beloved wife. Iris will be missed but not forgotten. Our good thoughts to all her family members and friends.

Jeanne Hibler - January 25, 2018 at 04:28 PM



“ David Miller lit a candle in memory of Iris Lilian Brownfield



david miller - January 25, 2018 at 02:38 PM



“ Pat Morrison lit a candle in memory of Iris Lilian Brownfield



Pat Morrison - January 25, 2018 at 09:21 AM



“ Iris was a beautiful lady inside an out she will always be in my heart to the family prayers for you she will be missed by everyone that knew her.



Butch an Rita Summers - January 23, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Stephen and Janet,
I'm saddened to hear of your mothers passing. The last time I saw her was at the post office. We had a nice visit while she was sitting in her car. I took her mail inside for her. She was a great lady and will be missed by so many people.
Connie Snelson Reed



Connie Reed - January 22, 2018 at 09:16 PM



“ Iris was a wonderful lady in many ways , it was a privilege to know and work with her.
Prayers for the family .



Chuck Tiessen - January 22, 2018 at 03:01 PM