



Lura Frances Wilson

November 1, 1927 - February 21, 2023

Our dear mother, Lura Frances Wilson, 95 and formerly of Okmulgee, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at Trinity Woods Health Center in Tulsa. The family will receive friends for a viewing from 6-8 pm on Friday, March 3rd at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home in Okmulgee. A celebration of her life service is scheduled on Saturday, March 4th at the First Baptist Church in Okmulgee. A graveside service will be held at 2:30 pm at the Oakdale Cemetery in Paden.

To the world, Lura Wilson was only one person, but to those of us who knew her, Lura WAS our world. She was our mother, our grandmother (and great grandmother), our friend, our inspiration, and our guiding light. She always took the time to really listen to us and share our joys or concerns. She was the true matriarch of the Wilson family, in every sense of the word.

A professional educator for 40 years, Lura taught us much more than just our ABCs...her entire life was dedicated to teaching her family to be open minded and accepting of all people, of being generous and kind no matter what the situation, and on having faith in a loving God. She had an amazing ability to make a real connection with all kinds of people, whether it was a young child learning to read, friends from school or church, dozens of nieces and nephews who considered her their favorite aunt, or the nurses and caregivers who helped her during her last few years of life. She didn't hesitate to speak

up when she thought something was wrong and needed corrected, especially when it came to the way teachers were treated in Oklahoma. She spent many hours advocating for increased spending for education in Oklahoma and for paying teachers a living wage. Teachers throughout Oklahoma can thank Lura for her part in having their health insurance paid by the state. She lobbied legislators, marched on the state capital with other OEA members, and worked tirelessly for years. Shortly after her retirement, her goal was achieved, and she celebrated what this meant for future generations even though she never benefitted from having paid insurance herself. She was respected by four generations of Wilsons for her wisdom, her courage, and her unerring ability to find joy in life.

Born on Nov. 1, 1927, in Fillmore, OK, to Eliga Bonaparte and Tooty Whittle Dupree, Lura and her four siblings quickly learned the importance of family and hard work and the value of an education. As a fifth grader in Fillmore Elementary School, she was inspired by a wonderful teacher and began to feel the tug of what would be her calling as well. Lura obtained an associates degree from Murray State College and then attended Oklahoma State University for one year. She married Tommy Wilson from Paden, OK, on March 11, 1949. Paula was born in 1950, followed by Tommy (Wayne) in 1954, Susan in 1955 and Greg in 1959. Lura was able to juggle diapers and childcare while completing her education, and she graduated from Southeastern State University in Durant in 1955. She taught first through eighth grades in Fillmore, Macawber, Panama and Barnsdall. After retiring in 1991, Tommy and Lura moved to Okmulgee. Tommy died in 2012, and Lura moved to Tulsa in 2018 shortly after celebrating her 90th birthday. Even during the final three and a half years when she lived in Trinity Woods nursing home, Lura did her best to start each day on a positive note and to greet her caregivers with appreciation. Her room was often filled with visits from her extended family.

A life-long Baptist, Lura was an active member of the churches in the communities in which she lived, most recently The First Baptist Church in Okmulgee. She was active in the Oklahoma Educators Association, serving as president of the LeFlore County OEA and as president of the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association in 2000-01. She received the Most Important Member award and the Kate Frank award for outstanding and significant service in advancing the cause of member welfare, rights, and professionalism. She was a charter member and officer of the Beta Lambda chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a women teacher's society; a member of the Oklahoma Reading Council and the International Reading Association; Democrat precinct co-chair of LeFlore County and delegate to several state Democratic conventions.

Lura was preceded in death by her parents, Eliga and Tooty Dupree; three sisters: Almeda "Bug" Sliger and husband, Calvin, Florence Armstrong and husband, Elmer, and Leota Schroeder and husband Al. She had one brother, Leroy "Bo" DuPree, and wife, Maxine, as well as three sisters-in-law, Hazel Willingham and husband, Chester, Jane Case and husband, Corvette, and Billy Orr and husband, Hardy. She had one brother-in-law, LTC Lloyd Wilson and wife, Fran, and nieces, nephews, and many beloved friends.

She is survived by her four children: Paula Bailey and partner, Denise York of Edmond, OK; Tommy Wayne Wilson and wife, Loretta, of Broken Bow, OK; Susan Miller of Tulsa; and Greg Wilson and wife, Lori, of Poteau.

Grandchildren include Crystal Walker and husband, Robert, of Tulsa; Angela Lindly and husband, Brandon of DeQueen, AR; Pam Hunt and husband, Joe, of Richardson, TX; Drs. Brock Wilson and wife, Amy, of Ft. Smith, AK; Beth Todd and husband, Will, of Keller, TX; Kyle Wilson and wife, Ashley, of Lavaca, AR; and Dylan Miller and wife, Danielle, of Orlando, FL, as well as 15 great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, other family and friends.

The family wishes to express their deepest appreciation to the nurses and aides of Chapman Heights for the outstanding love and care they have consistently given our mother.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the OSU Foundation. Checks should be payable to the OSU Foundation and mailed to PO Box 1749, Stillwater, OK 74076-1749 or gifts can be made online at <https://secure.osugiving.com/s/giving/annual?dsgr=36-00030>. Please note your donation is in memory of Lura F. Wilson.

Cemetery Details

Oakdale Cemetery

Paden, OK 74860

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - Okmulgee

303 E. 7th Street

Okmulgee, OK 74447

(918) 756-1677

info@mcclendon-winters.com

<https://www.mcclendon-winters.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 4. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Okmulgee

311 W. 5th Street

Okmulgee, OK

Tribute Wall



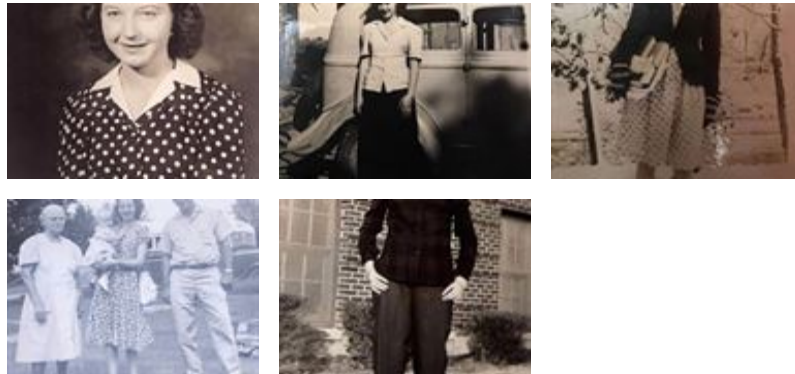
“ McClendon-Winters Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lura Frances Wilson



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - March 02, 2023 at 05:37 PM



“ 108 files added to the album LifeTributes



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - March 03, 2023 at 12:35 PM

SW

“ I was blessed to be a student of Mrs. Wilson for three years at Panama elementary. In fourth grade we would change classes and so that was an adjustment for all of us. She was my home room teacher as well that year. I can see her standing in the front of the classroom holding up a pencil and saying, “Repeat after me, responsibility.” It was our job to come to class with the necessary items to learn. I loved the spelling bees, the baseball type game we played in her classroom, and just the joy she conveyed to us about life. I respected her greatly and her faith was evident in how she treated others. My daughter is a current Oklahoma teacher and is reaping the benefits of Mrs. Wilson’s advocacy. I never knew this part of her life. Best wishes to the family!

Sabrina “Thompson” Wood
Edmond, OK

Sabrina Wood - February 27, 2023 at 11:45 PM

AT

Mrs Wilson raised a good family and grandchildren! We are blessed through our wonderful daughter in law, Beth Todd, to know of this amazing women, and her accomplishments. Her family loves her dearly❤️. Our deepest sympathies to the entire Wilson Famiky. Alicia, Jackson, Sunny Todd. Tulsa Oklahoma

alicia todd - March 04, 2023 at 08:14 AM

“ Just a Matter of Time

*I stand upon solemn, moist ground,
Row upon row as I look around,
All is quiet, nary a sound,
Tis autumn, colorful leaves abound*

*I've come to pay my respects,
To family members who have reached life's apex,
So full of life I recall, now their deaths do perplex,
Marked by tombstones, each standing like an index,*

*Filled with love for each and every one,
“Yesterday,” they were all here, and now none,
Only memories remain, until my life is done,
But for the moment, I reminisce, warmed by the sun*

*In time all will be forgotten, “Then what was the purpose?” you ask,
Well, I don't mean to be rude or take you to task,
But here is a simple thought I hope you can grasp,
“To love and care for each other,” before our time does lapse*

*Looking around, those who loved and cared for me, I see,
Images of grandparents, relatives, et al, overcome me,
Another chance to show my love for them, my only plea,
If only ..., Such an opportunity would fill my heart with glee*

*But I must wait for the final beacon call,
When I am wrapped in my own personal pall,
To be interred in the somber pastoral sprawl,
Perhaps when the leaves are resplendent, as in the Fall*

*“You mentioned the ground was moist,” as I recall,
“Yes, bathed in the tears of loved ones,” often a veritable downfall,*

*Imagine families standing beside each grave, when death does
befall,
Their grief expressed in weeping and sobs, unable to forestall*

*Years of tears, never to end,
Even now as these words are penned,
Be they for parent, child, relative, or friend,
Dampen the earth, for the sun and wind*

*On any given day, in places near and far away,
Someone is laid to rest, to return to the earth and decay,
Such loss, sorrow, and grief, no one can allay,
Another family left alone with tears and a bouquet*

*Often such a loss is an impetus to celebrate,
For family members finally gather in one aggregate,
To see, hug, hear news, share views, even adulate,
The benefits of which the deceased would advocate*

*So be not shy, gather round one and all,
Adults, teenagers, and children so small,
Even senior citizens, should heed the call,
As if the deceased rid the family of the reaper's thrall*

*Ah, from the Black Death, lurks the grim reaper,
Waiting patiently for the next to depart, like a frightful timekeeper,
While we know not the hour nor the day, nay, only the scorekeeper,
Live, forgive, love, and enjoy, so as to thwart the stealthy soul
seeker*

Lawrence Ramsey



“ *Blue, Red, and Yellow Dahlia (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Lura Frances Wilson.*



February 22, 2023 at 04:51 PM