



Mary Odelene Ross

July 4, 1924 - October 17, 2021

Mary Odelene Ross, 97, of Boynton Oklahoma went to be with the Lord on October 17, 2021. Mary was born on July 4th, 1924, at their family home near Tuskegee, Oklahoma to Sarah Elizabeth Hagee Johnston and Odis Walter Johnston, better known as “Sweet Potato Johnston.” Mary was the fifth of eight children. Her family was a hardworking, independent, self-reliant, Christian family. Their faith in Christ and love for each other kept them close throughout their lives.

Mary graduated from Slick High School at the age of 15 in 1940. After graduation, she attended a junior college in Bristow. She passed the state test and went to work as a teacher at Newby, Oklahoma on a war certificate at the age of 18. Mary taught the next few years at Newby, Banner, Tuskegee, and Slick High School. She attended summer school to continue her education. While teaching, she met (as she stated), the “man of her dreams,” Eugene H Ross. Gene, as he was known, had been in the Navy and was attending OSU, studying agriculture. She took a year off from teaching to attend OSU, and both she & Gene took jobs the next year teaching. They were married on October 9, 1948; Mary graduated from East Central State College in August of 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. After their marriage, Mary taught at Mason, Okfuskee, Tuskegee, Boynton, Glenpool and then retired from Haskell Public Schools.

After their retirement, Mary and Gene traveled extensively throughout the United States and twice to Alaska. She loved taking her grandchildren with

them when they could.

Mary was faithful to church, serving as church pianist and Sunday School teacher for many years. She had been a member of various Assemblies of God churches during her years and currently attended Haskell Assembly of God. Mary and Gene ministered at Springs Retirement Center in Muskogee for over 24 years together, conducting a weekly service to brighten the patient's lives through singing, teaching God's word and delivering special gifts during holidays. Mary continued the ministry by herself for 12 years after Gene's death.

When Covid restricted her from entering the nursing home, she continued to serve others by visiting those who were homebound in her community. Mary delivered food, prayed with them, and encouraged them. She continued this ministry until two weeks before she passed. She was a great cook and enjoyed feeding others. She passionately loved the Lord, her family, and showing Christ's love to others.

She is survived by one sister, Sarah Darlene Goins and husband, Tom of Broken Arrow. Brother-in-law, Authur Watson, of Eufaula. Marilyn Herriman, daughter, and her husband, Allen, of Boynton and Jerold Don Ross, son and his wife, Lesa, of Boynton. Four grandchildren: Malia Dismang and husband Chad, Melinda Foutch and husband, Blake, Donovan, and Dustin Ross. Four Great-grandchildren: Rowdy Webb, Colt Webb, Wyatt Foutch and Bristol Foutch, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to Haskell First Assembly of God Missions. Donations may be sent to: Haskell Assembly of God, PO Box 1260, Haskell, Oklahoma 74436. Please designate the Mary Ross memorial fund. A celebration of life will be held 2:00pm, Friday at First Assembly of God in Haskell with Pastor Donald Hogue officiating. Friends may visit the funeral home Thursday from 1:00pm – 7:00pm with family present from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

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

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **21**. 1:00 PM - 7:00 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>

Visitation

OCT **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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>

Celebration of Life

OCT **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Haskell Assembly of God
409 Cedar W
Haskell, OK 74436

Tribute Wall



“ *McClendon-Winters Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Odelene Ross*



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - October 19, 2021 at 05:02 PM

BD

Sweetest woman Ive ever met in my entire life! Gave me a ride home from work once and we sat out in front of my house and she fellowshipped with me about the Lord. She could sense I guess that I was having a dilemma in my life at that particular time and we sat there for over 2 hours. Ive never in my life felt so comfortable just LISTENING to her go on and on about so many different things , from gardening to her grandkids to wanting to bring me some squash and inviting me to church and lastly praying with me. As I got out of her car, I felt so cared about., truly cared about, and she just knew me from time or two stopping in at Simple Simons. I want you to know that this sweet woman came through the drive through and brought me some vegetables!! Go rest easy on that Mountain , with the Father and the Son!

Becky Davis - October 20, 2021 at 12:58 AM



“ *Mary Odelene Ross*

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM

Johna Shockley

“ *This sweet lady was amazing. One Sunday before church she whispered to me she was in trouble. I, of course, said what ever for. She said I got caught cleaning brush. I laughed and asked if she stopped. She said until they left! She was always positive and happy. I true joy to be around. She will be missed.*

Johna Shockley - October 21, 2021 at 11:11 AM

ES

“ *I was one of many students taught by Mrs. Mary Ross at Mary White Elementary School in Haskell, Oklahoma. Mrs. Ross would read Bible stories to our class. I always listened attentively. Thankful for all my teachers but thankful for Mrs. Ross and her 97 years of living.*

Elizabeth Michelle Swanson-McKee - October 20, 2021 at 09:58 PM

TC

“ *Very sorry for your loss. Was a wonderful lady. Great neighbor when we lived at Boynton.*

Tim Craighton - October 20, 2021 at 11:58 AM

BF

“ *Becky Burney And Fanily lit a candle in memory of Mary Odelene Ross*



Becky Burney and family - October 20, 2021 at 02:07 AM



“ *Yellow Rose Buds (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Mary Odelene Ross.*



October 19, 2021 at 10:29 PM



“ *74 files added to the album Life Tributes*



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - October 19, 2021 at 05:00 PM

AJ

Mrs. Ross was such a beautiful person, I loved our talks at Homeland and days she'd come by our house to bring garden vegetables. God chose a beautiful Rose on Monday. Resting In Paradise is what she's doing now.. Love to you all. From Rod and Angela Jackson

Angela Jackson - October 20, 2021 at 03:57 PM

NG

“ *Norval & Betty, Michelle, & Garrett purchased the Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate for the family of Mary Odelene Ross.*



Norval & Betty, Michelle, & Garrett - October 19, 2021 at 01:30 PM

SJ

“ *Suzanne, Michelle, and Garrett Johnston purchased the Mrs. Fields With Sympathy Combo Tin for the family of Mary Odelene Ross.*



Suzanne, Michelle, and Garrett Johnston - October 19, 2021 at 01:25 PM