



Melbalene McCraw

August 28, 1929 - February 5, 2013

Melbalene L. McCraw, better known as "Meb" by family and friends, of Waldron, Arkansas (formerly of Tulsa, Oklahoma) went to be with her Lord and Savior, Tuesday, February 5, 2013, in Waldron, Arkansas, surrounded by her loving family. Meb was born August 28, 1929, to Jim Franklin and Pearl (Edwards) Franklin in Parks, Arkansas. Meb was 83 years, 5 months and 8 days old. Meb attended The church at Battle Creek and Riverside Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Meb enjoyed music, especially gospel music and frequently attended concerts and singings with fellow church members. Meb worked in the insurance industry in Tulsa for most of her career, which spanned nearly sixty years. She liked to stay busy and was still working one day a week at age 79. In 2009, she moved from her long-time home in Tulsa back to her childhood town of Waldron due to health problems. Meb enjoyed travel and traveled extensively throughout the United States as well as making several trips abroad. She enjoyed people and was always ready to help anyone in need. She never met a stranger and kept up friendships that went all the way back to her childhood. She especially delighted in being around little children and spoiling them with treats. Meb also loved animals--her cats, the neighbors' pets and any stray cat or dog that came along. She often pet sat for neighbors and helped HALO Pet Rescue of Tulsa by fostering abandoned pets until they could be placed in permanent homes. Meb leaves behind to cherish her memory, two daughters: Donna Sue Austin and husband Mike of Longview, Texas, and Rebecca Tate and husband Lonnie of

Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Grandmama will forever be missed by six grandchildren: Donna (Austin) Santo, Daniel Austin, Joshua Tate, Jared Tate, Melissa (Tate) McCorkle and Ryan Tate, as well as six great grandchildren: Madison Santo, Macy Santo, Katherine Austin, Noah Austin, Elijah Austin and Clayton McCorkle. Meb is also survived by one brother, Bill Franklin, and his wife Pat. Meb will be missed by all who knew her and the many whose lives she touched, including a number of nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones. A celebration of Meb's life will be at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 9, 2013, at the Parks Baptist Church in Parks, Arkansas with Rev. Billy Harwell officiating. Interment will follow in the Parks Cemetery in Parks, Arkansas. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory in Waldron, Arkansas. Pallbearers will be Men of Parks Baptist Church, Bub Franklin, Carlton McConnell, Philip McCorkle and Daniel Austin. Visitation will be Friday, February 8, 2013, from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home in Waldron, Arkansas. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Parks Cemetery, c/o Kelly Cole, 12376 Bellevue Rd, Parks, AR 72950 or HALO Pet Rescue of Tulsa, c/o Mary Anne Jarrett, Director, 4654 E. 57th Street, Tulsa, OK 74135-4314.

Previous Events

visitation

FEB **8**. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Heritage Memorial Funeral
1879 West 6th Street
Waldron, AK 72958
(479) 637-1212
<https://www.heritagememoralfh.com/>

celebration

FEB **9**. 1:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Parks Baptist Church

Tribute Wall

LH

“ so sorry to hear of Melbalenes passing she was truely a lovely lady.

Larry & Deloras Horn - February 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I am so sorry for your loss. It is difficult to lose one's mother, no matter how old she is nor how old we are.

With deepest sympathy,
Miriam Lancaster

Miriam Lancaster - February 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ It was truly a joy to have known Mrs. Melbalene. I remember the trips she would take with us on the Senior Center Van to Mena & Fort Smith shopping. You only had to mention the word "go" and she was ready. My thoughts & prayers are with you at this time.

Sandi Herrington
Former Director @ Senior Citizens Center

Sandi Herrington - February 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Roger & Jana Holcomb - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Melbalene was such a great friend and such a trip to be around!! She had such a wonderful, caring spirit and was so gracious to my mom, hosting popcicle parties on a daily basis at the center! I so admired her love of life and her strength for getting through her last years. She was a trooper and I love her! You girls did a wonderful job caring for her and I extend love to all the family.*

Patricia Owens Richmond - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

OT

“ *Bill, so sorry to hear of the death of your sister. May God be with you and your families at this sad time. Love, Ocie Faye*

Ocie Faye Tull Tinder - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

OL

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Melbalene's death, Billy John. She was a lovely lady.*

Oleta Goodner Lewis - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ *I have known Melba so many years as her daughter, Becky, and I have been bestfriends for over 35 years. My heart goes out to Becky and Sue and I wish I could help take the hurt in their hearts away. My prayers and thoughts are with them. Melba will be missed by many.*

Tammy Thompson - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *She was a wonderful lady and could always make me laugh. The world is a better place for her being in it.*

Margaret Townsend - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *You are in our prayers. Let us know if there is anything we can do.*

Bocca Sue & Raymond Rambo - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ *With deepest sympathy.*

Waldron Nursing Center Residents and Staff - February 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM