



Marilyn Jean Johnston

December 2, 1935 - December 24, 2014

'Marilyn Jean (Sheets) Johnston, formerly of Poteau, OK, peacefully entered into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ the evening of Dec. 24, 2014, in Sapulpa, OK at the age of 79 years. Marilyn was born Dec. 2, 1935 in Alva, OK to M.R. (Rex) Sheets and Grace (Korn) Sheets. Moving to Woodward, OK, in 1946, she was raised and received the majority of her education in Woodward, OK, graduating Woodward HS. In 1954, she was united in marriage to Gary Johnston in Woodward. They moved to Poteau in 1962, where they made their home. During 24 years of marriage, three daughters were born. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education in 1982 at NSU. Marilyn worked for the State of Oklahoma as a social worker 21 years; 17 of those spent in the nursing home program of DHS. She accepted any challenge, was a hard worker, and an overcomer. Marilyn was involved in numerous organizations, including "Meals on Wheels", helped found a women's crisis center in Poteau, and was active in Girl Scouts and the Poteau Band Boosters for many years. Marilyn was a lover of animals, having rescued and located homes for at least 27 dogs. She volunteered at the Christian Free Clinic and the Hospital Guild. As a member of the First United Methodist Church, she participated in teaching children and the Methodist Women's Group. For years, she was very involved in outreach programs to nursing home residents, such as participating in pet therapy. Family was important to Marilyn, evidenced by her loving devotion to her parents. She loved being a Mama to her daughters; the kind her daughters wanted to

emulate. Those who survive include her daughters - Linda Sue Johnston of Owasso, OK, Cynthia (Cindy) Lynne Woolbright and husband Joe of Bethalto, IL, and Donna Jean Johnston of Dodge City, KS. Also surviving is her precious granddaughter Allison Grace Woolbright, who called her "Grammy". She has one brother Ronald R. Sheets and his wife Sharon of Loveland, CO, along with nephews and nieces, and many extended relatives who also survive her. Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents. There will be a private graveside service in Woodward on Dec. 30, 2014, then a celebration of her life on Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, in the chapel of Mowery Funeral Service with Pastor Steve Johnson officiating. Those who would like to honor Marilyn's memory may do so by contributing to either the ASPCA or to the Poteau Humane Society. Arrangements and services have been entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service of Owasso, OK.'