



Juanita Mae Garner

February 28, 1943 - January 4, 2025

Juanita Garner, age 81 of Norman, and formerly of Lexington, passed away Saturday, January 4, 2025. Juanita Mae Combs was born February 28, 1943 in Wayne, Oklahoma, the oldest of six children born to Paul Levi Combs and Naomi Ruth (Phillips) Combs. The daughter of sharecroppers, she learned at a very young age the value of hard work. She was raised in Lexington and attended school there, graduating with the Bulldog Class of 1961. On June 8, 1962, she married her high school sweetheart, Bill Garner. As the wife of a career military man, she lived in various places throughout the United States and Germany. She often recalled the 23 addresses that their family called home, although she always considered Lexington her home. By 1981, they settled in Lexington. They were the proud parents of three children; sons Brad and Bryan and daughter Julie. Nita worked for the First State Bank in Lexington for a time, and then for the OK Department of Corrections. She worked at the Joseph Harp Correctional Facility for more than 23 years, retiring as a Unit Secretary. Nita was a busy body, always working and very intentional with her time. She enjoyed crafts of all kinds; painting, decoupage, sewing and ceramics brought her much joy. She also loved gardening, cooking and hosting holiday and family get-togethers. Nita enjoyed being the self-appointed family "Wedding Planner", and she took great pride in that role and anything she was doing. She felt blessed to travel the world and visited many cities and countries including France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain, Ireland, Alaska, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Her greatest legacy was her

faith. She was actively involved in church small groups, helped annually with Vacation Bible School, sang in the choir and was her Sunday School Classes' Prayer List Coordinator. She cherished her family, especially her grandchildren. She will be dearly missed!

She was preceded in death by: her parents, Paul and Naomi Combs and two sisters, Betty Cossey and Roberta Elmore.

Nita is survived by: her husband Bill Garner of the home; daughter Julie Simeroth and husband Jason of Yukon; sons, Brad Garner of Moore and Bryan Garner and wife Allison of Oshkosh, WI; sister, Sheri Meeks and husband Randal of Lexington; two brothers, Don Combs and wife Sharon and Jim Combs and wife Mitzi, all of Lexington; 6 grandchildren, River Garner of OKC, Skyler Garner of Norman, Summer Simeroth and husband Kevin Ray of Yukon, USAF 2LT Dawson Simeroth of Vance AFB, Enid, Boden Garner of Tucson, AZ and Piper Garner of Oshkosh, WI; and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral Services are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at First Baptist Church in Lexington. Nita will be laid to rest at Ft. Sill National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sill National Cemetery

2648 NE Juke Dunn Rd.
Elgin, OK 73538

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Lexington First Baptist Church
900 E. Broadway St.
Lexington, OK 73051

Tribute Wall

NB

“ *I remember staying at Nita and Bill's house growing up. It was always a fun time. She will be greatly missed, but I know she is in a much better place now.*

Norma Bishop - January 08, 2025 at 03:46 PM

SM

“ *Nita and our brother Jim in January of 2023. She definitely had a silly side.*



Sheri Meeks - January 07, 2025 at 12:32 AM



“ *I remember many times with Aunt Nita, I remember most of all her and Uncle Bill came to visit me while I was in the hospital after my stroke. It really boosted my spirits and helped me get through the endless adversity. Thank you Nita for being a great aunt and person.*

Kyle Tompkins - January 06, 2025 at 06:10 PM

JS

“ *What a Mom she was to me! I didn't realize how much love or patience she had for me until I became a mother myself. She taught me to be kind, generous, giving, and work hard. She taught me how to sew, cook, clean, throw great birthday parties, and put others before myself. Most importantly, she modeled a life a faith in God that has become the bedrock of my life. I thank God for her influence in my life and that I will see her again. I love her dearly and will miss her everyday. No more tears, Mom.*

Julie Simeroth - January 06, 2025 at 12:27 PM

RW

“ *Juanita was my first cousin. She was thirteen years older than me. I always saw her and the rest of the family at holidays at Granny and Grandpa Phillips house. I remember her bringing Bill with her. I always enjoyed seeing them and I admired them both very much. Her and the rest of the family are good people. We never visited like we should because live gets busy and in the way. I always enjoyed talking with her during different stages of our lives. My regret is that I didn't make it a big enough priority to get together. Rest in Peace sweet lady. I know you will be missed. Bill and family, please accept my heartfelt condolences.*



Rita Phillips Walck - January 05, 2025 at 10:37 PM

CP

“ *Carol Pattillo lit a candle in memory of Juanita Garner*



Carol Pattillo - January 05, 2025 at 07:06 PM