



Lela Faye Dodds

August 13, 1928 - February 25, 2025

Lela Faye Dodds, age 96 of Purcell, passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Born August 13, 1928 in Maysville, OK, she was 1 of 6 children born to Richard Ephram Ballard and Annie Leolia (Woodward) Ballard. Lela was primarily raised in Lindsay where she attended school, graduating with the Leopards Class of 1946. By chance, she met a young man named John Elton Dodds. They met on a double date, and the rest as they say is history. They moved from Lindsay to Purcell in 1957 where they raised two sons, John and Darrell. Lela retired from GTE after more than 35 years of service. While there, she did a little bit of everything, from switch board operator to supply, where she was qualified to drive fork lifts. She eventually completed her career at the business office. Away from work, Lela's world revolved around antiques. Antiquing was something her and John enjoyed together. Lela traveled countless miles looking for the right piece, and was called on for reference and confirmation work due to her knowledge. She rented booths in malls and stores, and was an all-around expert on Frankoma Pottery. Lela was a woman of great faith and longtime member of the Free Will Baptist Church in Purcell. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and a true friend. She will be dearly missed!

She was preceded in death by: her husband John E. Dodds; her parents, Richard and Annie Ballard and siblings, Arlene McCown, Dorothy Miller, Alvin Ballard, Calvin Ballard and Roy Ballard.

She is survived by: her sons, John Dodds of Norman and Darrell Dodds of Oklahoma City; 5 grandchildren, Dyndi Gibson, Jenny Maxwell, John Ehren Dodds, Sarah Jane Cornelison and Chey Loessberg; 10 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral Services are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Little's Chapel. Burial will follow at the Hillside Cemetery. www.wilsonlittle.com.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

HWY 39 West
Purcell, OK 73080

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Little's Chapel
127 S. Canadian
Purcell, OK 73080
<http://www.wilsonlittle.com>

Tribute Wall

“ I am really glad that I was able to come to the service. Johnny and Darrell, I had something written out that I'd like to share with you... I didn't have a chance to give you the handwritten piece:

When my sister and I lost our grandmother Arlene in 2001, we found ourselves incredibly lucky to have our mom's Aunt Faye step into a role that felt, in many ways, like a stand-in grandparent. She was a constant in our lives, someone whose presence was always filled with warmth, love, and an unending kindness.

Not once in my forty years did I hear her speak an ill word about anyone. She simply wasn't that kind of person. She chose to see the best in people, and in doing so, she made those around her feel special, important, and accepted.

I have such fond memories of visiting her home as a child, a place filled with treasures. I remember a room full of antique clocks—or at least, that's how I remember it from so long ago. No matter what fascinating object caught my eye, she never hesitated to let me ask about it, to hold it, to explore it. She had a way of making curiosity feel welcome, and that generosity of spirit never changed.

Aunt Faye had a beautiful gift—she could turn anyone's day around with just a story, a smile, or a kind word. The last voicemail I have from her is saved on my phone, and it's full of laughter—she'd missed my call because she was in the shower, and of course, even at her age, she still needed to look her best. That was Aunt Faye—full of life, full of grace, always leaving you with a smile.

She taught me something that has become a part of who I am—the importance of knowing our history, our roots, and being proud of them. She was our family's historian, always willing to share a story, answer a question, or dig up some little piece of knowledge. As I got older and my own love for history grew, she was always there, eager to share what she knew. She even sparked my love for antiques—I can't tell you how many times I called her about

something I'd found, and if she didn't know about it, she'd research it and call me back, despite my protests that I didn't want to take up too much of her time.

She had such an impact on our family and on our community. I remember bringing my daughters to visit her after they were born—she was always one of the first people we saw. We'd stop by her booths in the shops on Main Street and she always had a surprise for them, a little something to make them smile. That was just who she was.

I don't know what Aunt Faye would want people to remember about her, but I know what I will remember—her kindness, her grace, her unwavering positivity. The world was lucky to have her as long as we did, and we are better people for having known her. I will miss her very much, and I know I'm not alone in that.

But I also know that as long as we carry forward the love, the kindness, and the stories she shared with us, she will never truly be gone.

Alicia Casper - March 31, 2025 at 12:59 PM

JW

“ *John, your Mom was a fine lady and friendly to all. She will be missed. Prayers for you all.*

Jim Wagstaff - March 10, 2025 at 06:50 PM

ID

“ *Johnny & Darrell, Sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was nice and kind.. She was a very good friend of the Dacus family.*
Inetha Dacus

Inetha dacus - March 04, 2025 at 06:55 PM

CM

“ Carolyn Malena-Franklin lit a candle in memory of Lela Dodds



Carolyn Malena-Franklin - March 03, 2025 at 09:11 PM



Something else I wanted to mention: I would have given anything to have worked with her at the phone company as a switchboard operator. That would have been a blast! I would have loved that so much!

Ruthie Powers - March 16, 2025 at 03:53 AM

CM

“ I'm sorry about your Mom. It's been a long time since I saw you. You live in Norman? I text Jenny ever once in a while. I saw her at Bill NEWMAN's funeral

Carol Grace Mancillas - February 28, 2025 at 07:46 PM

SG

“ John and Darryl prayers for you and your family. May your Heavenly Father wrap his arms around you with comfort in your mind, peace in your soul and love in your heart. Susan George

Susan George - February 28, 2025 at 03:35 PM

BB

“ Johnny and Darrell our prayers are with you all! She was a sweet friend to our family and we’ve missed getting to see her recently. I will share this with Aunt Velma and Daddy. Love Bonita and Steve

Bonita & Steve Brakefy - February 28, 2025 at 09:39 AM



I just want to tell you how sad I am for your family. This has been so heartbreaking for my sister and me. Faye was one of a kind. The most graceful person I’ve grown to know and love. I am a better person from getting to know her so well. I loved the amazing antique earrings she gave me, my Marlyn Monroe book, and last but not least—my bright red lipstick, which she knew I loved so much. One of my regrets is not having met her sooner. When I was discouraged, she was there to brighten my day! Do you have any idea how amazed I was that she knew how to text? I believe I didn’t learn how until my 7 year old nephew taught me at 55 plus years of age. She was the highlight of my days and nites getting texts from her. She was so joyful. It made me proud to have such a sweet dear friend. I’m forever grateful for having known her.

Ruthie Powers - March 16, 2025 at 03:06 AM



I loved her dearly and I love her family too. Y’all mean the world to me. Thanks for sharing her. That last birthday was classic and she had a ball! Thank you guys for being the BEST sons a mother could have! No one can top y’all. You are the best sons ever! Thanks again! You were always there for her! Y’all are amazing!

Ruthie Powers - March 16, 2025 at 03:12 AM