



## Tessie Faye Gwaltney

September 1, 1932 - January 20, 2021

Tessie Faye (Sanders) Gwaltney

1932-2021

Tessie Faye Gwaltney, 88, of Dewey, stepped from this earth into her heavenly home on January 20, 2021, at the Journey Home in Bartlesville.

Tessie was born to James Charney "Bruce" Sanders and Floy Mae Shackleford Sanders on September 1, 1932 in Gans, Oklahoma. In 1957, she married the love of her life, John Ray Gwaltney of Checotah, Oklahoma. They first lived in Bartlesville, then moved to the home they built on their acreage in Dewey, where they lived from 1968. Altogether, they shared nearly 56 years of marriage before he died in April 2013.

Tessie was also predeceased by her parents: two brothers, Hubert Sanders and Charles Sanders, her sisters Lorene Sanders Shelton, and LaRue Sanders Moore, and a niece to whom she was very close, Mary Shelton Hardt. She is survived by her two, younger sisters, Joyce Sanders Butler of Austin, Texas and Bobbie Sanders Beil of Denver, Colorado.

Tessie is survived by her children Debbie and her husband Tom Loafman of Bartlesville, Gary and his wife Debbie Gwaltney of Olathe, Kansas. She is survived by 5 grandchildren whom she loved wholeheartedly and knew for

certain were near to perfect: Thomas Loafman and his wife Ashten, Travis Loafman, Laura Legg and her husband Matt, Kyle Gwaltney, and Cody Gwaltney and his wife Sawyer.

She was also blessed with 6 great grandchildren who were the joy of her later years: Hadleigh Elizabeth and Camden Kate Legg, Ezra Jaymes and Brooks Thomas Loafman, Madison Nicole Gwaltney and a soon to be born baby boy Jack David Legg. Other family include a much-loved brother-in-law, many nieces, and nephews, as well as her friends, former students, and their parents.

Tessie grew up in Sequoyah County and graduated from Stigler High School. She then graduated from Conners State College and received her bachelor's degree in education from Northeastern Oklahoma State in 1954. She taught school for over 30 years. The bulk of her career was spent teaching 2nd grade at Will Rogers Elementary in Bartlesville. She was a funny and kindhearted teacher. She truly loved children and received special joy in seeing them learn to read.

Tessie was a member of First Baptist Church of Bartlesville for over 60 years. She loved the Lord. Her main ministry was remembering and encouraging others by sending cards with a personal note and a scripture she chose and printed out in her perfect 2nd grade teacher penmanship. From the time her grandchildren graduated high school until just recently, she sent each of them a personal note weekly to let them know she prayed for them and was thinking of them. This amounted to literally thousands of notes over the past 20 years.

The family will receive friends at Stumpff Funeral Home in Bartlesville on Thursday, January 28 from 5 to 7 pm. Services will be held at Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, January 29 at 11 am with a private burial to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making donations to the Journey Home of Bartlesville or the Oklahoma Baptist Home for Children.

If you are unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed. Click on the link

below to view the service

<https://www.oneromstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=161162585697264>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 27. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory  
1600 SE Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
info@stumpff.org  
<https://www.stumpff.org>

## Visitation

JAN 28. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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## Family To Receive Friends

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## Service

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JAN 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel  
1600 SE Washington Blvd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
<http://www.Stumpff.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Tessie Faye Gwaltney*



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May 09, 2022 at 09:28 PM



“ *Tessie Faye Gwaltney*

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October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Tessie Faye Gwaltney*

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October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Flowers*



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**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - February 26, 2021 at 07:55 PM

KK

“ Sweet Tess... She had such a delightful & warm presence wherever she was. I loved seeing her at church where she would make me feel like I was the most important person to her at that moment. She will be missed.

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**Kim Kayser** - January 28, 2021 at 04:55 PM

ML

“ I know many people will always remember how Tess made them feel when they were in her presence. In my eyes she was always warm and welcoming. I respect the discipline she had in following her Faith in every aspect of her life. She was so loving and appreciative of time spent together with our family. Hadleigh loved to go over and play a song on the piano for Grandma Tess in the front room of her home. Camden Kate enjoyed feeding the kittens with her in their back yard. Years ago, it was fun to see the interaction between John and Tess together-the laughter they shared and the pride and love they had for Laura was something to witness. Just a few summers ago, Tess was on cloud nine when she was able to travel to Austin and visit with her sisters. What a great memory, to see those three ladies enjoying time with one another! We will miss Tess for her laugh, her love and of course all of her encouraging letters!

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**Matt Legg** - January 27, 2021 at 10:16 PM

SM

“ When the Gwaltney's lived on Morningside, across the street from my aunt and uncle, I loved visiting their home when we came to town. They had so many books and Mr. Gwaltney would hook up a pony to the cart and give us a ride! I have a lot of fond memories playing with Debbie. You all have a wonderful family.



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**Sheryl Rowland Miracle** - January 27, 2021 at 12:42 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Tessie Faye Gwaltney.*



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January 27, 2021 at 07:57 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Tessie Faye Gwaltney.*



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January 26, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ *Tess has been my friend since 1951 when we were students at Connors. I treasure her friendship and memory.*

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**Nan Morrison** - January 25, 2021 at 07:46 PM