



Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker

August 8, 1960 - March 1, 2014

Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker, 53 of Fort Gibson, passed away Saturday, March 1, 2014 after an 18 month battle with cancer. Dena was born August 8, 1960 to A J Kelley and Shirley Elaine (Sullivan) Kelley in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She grew up and attended Muskogee Public Schools and graduated from Muskogee High School in 1978.

On February 27, 1984, Dena gave birth to her only son, Jesse Wade Tindall. In January of 1988, Dena began her career as an Administrative Assistant at the Muskogee Office for Oklahoma Department of Veteran's Affairs. Dena worked there until her retirement in April of 1999.

On July 9, 2002, Dena married her soul mate, Jeff Ray Ryker in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dena and Jeff embarked on a journey after their retirement vowing to live in other places that most people just vacation or visit. Since that time, they lived in Mazatlan, Mexico; Tucson, Arizona; Rockport, Texas; with extended stays in Alaska and Guatemala and multiple short trips abroad.

Dena was preceded in death by her husband, Jeff in August of 2013 and her father, A J Kelley in February of 1994. Dena and Jeff vowed they would meet again and travel the stars together. They have now embarked on that journey. She is survived by her son, Jesse Wade Tindall of Muskogee; two granddaughters, Lorelei Grace Tindall and Rayna Lynn Tindall, both of Muskogee; her mother, Shirley Elaine Kilgore and her husband Robert of Muskogee; her brother, A. Carl Kelley and sister-in-law Carrie of Fort Gibson; her nieces, Heather Ezell and husband Kevin of Park Hill, OK, and Fallon

Nicole Kelley and husband Brandon Wilson of Fort Gibson, OK; her nephews, Jason Carl Kelley and wife Ginger of Muskogee, Adam Jordan Kelley and fiancé Annie Felts of Fort Gibson; her five great nephews and one great niece and other family members and friends.

For those wishing to donate to cancer research, in lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Darryl Worley Foundation, 935 Wayne Rd, Savannah, TN, 38372 or online at www.darrylworleyfoundation.org.

Funeral services will be at 12:00 p.m., Friday, March 7, 2014 at New Hope Baptist Church, 1501 North 43rd Street East, Muskogee, OK with Reverend Tom Shelton officiating. Interment will follow in Fort Gibson at Fort Gibson National Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Duke Boyd, Jay Stephens and John Compelube, Tony Cook, Dale Hamilton and Craig Morgan. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Dr. Paul Hobbs, Regina Compelube and Ginger McCall.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

MAR 6. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

MAR 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

New Hope Baptist Church
1501 N 43rd St. East
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall



“ *Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Just today finding out about Dena... although I haven't seen her in about 30 years I will always remember the night I was in the hospital and she stayed most of the night convincing me everything is gonna be alright. One of the few people I have known in my life that truly had a pure heart.....*



Robert Wanner - November 08, 2015 at 05:43 PM



“ *Susan lit a candle in memory of Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Susan - March 09, 2014 at 04:55 PM



“ *We've been friends for over 30 years. I'll never forget your beautiful spirit, and smile.*

Chris James - March 07, 2014 at 10:32 PM

DU

“ *Dena (Diz) I will forever love you and miss you. Both you and Jeff were great friends and I was always very happy to visit and spend time with. My heart is broken but happy knowing you were accepting of your trip to paradise.*



Duke - March 06, 2014 at 08:42 PM

BB

“ *Betty Johnson Barnett lit a candle in memory of Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Betty Johnson Barnett - March 06, 2014 at 09:57 AM

RB

“ *Rhnea Werner Burcham lit a candle in memory of Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Rhnea Werner Burcham - March 05, 2014 at 02:38 PM

CB

“ *Dena, so happy I was able to spend some time with you recently. I look forward to our next visit time when we both will be healthy and happy and I will once again see those beautiful dancing eyes of yours. Such a precious girl! Heaven awaits for each of us who have received Christ into our hearts. Until next time...Love and Hugs!*
Carroll and Jan

Carroll and Jan Bolinger - March 05, 2014 at 12:41 PM

JM

“ WILL MISS MY LITTLE COUSIN, SHE WAS A SWEETHEART!

JERRI LYNN MATHIS - March 04, 2014 at 03:15 PM

JK

“ *In memory of Dena*

Judy Kersten - March 04, 2014 at 11:57 AM

TC

“ *Tony Cook lit a candle in memory of Dena
Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Tony Cook - March 04, 2014 at 10:31 AM

FK

“ *Fallon Kelley lit a candle in memory of Dena
Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



fallon kelley - March 03, 2014 at 11:02 PM

BC

“ *She had a beautiful smile.*

Billie Clark - March 03, 2014 at 09:08 PM

BC

“ *Billie Clark lit a candle in memory of Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Billie Clark - March 03, 2014 at 09:06 PM



“ *John Compelube lit a candle in memory of Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



John Compelube - March 03, 2014 at 12:09 PM



“ *Regina Compelube lit a candle in memory of Dena Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Regina Compelube - March 03, 2014 at 09:49 AM

GM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ginger McCall - March 02, 2014 at 08:49 PM

GT

She was a very good person and I will miss her.

Gary Tindall - March 03, 2014 at 09:15 AM

GM

“ *Ginger McCall lit a candle in memory of Dena
Lauren Kelley-Ryker*



Ginger McCall - March 02, 2014 at 08:05 PM