



## Dorothy Jane Bliss

September 19, 1934 - February 18, 2017

Dorothy Jane (Koch) Bliss, 82, longtime resident of Muskogee, passed away early Saturday morning, February 18, 2017, with her family by her side. Born September 19, 1934, in New York, NY, to Henry and Irma (Grimm) Koch, she grew up in Mattituck and Flushing, NY. She attended the public schools and graduated from Bayside High School with the class of 1952. After high school, she furthered her education by attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY.

On July 31, 1955, Dorothy married Charles Fred Bliss III in Tahlequah, OK.

Together they have shared over 61 years of life and marriage together.

During Fred's active service in the Army, they were stationed at Fort Benning, GA, Fort Campbell, KY, West Point, NY, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Rochester, NY, Washington, D.C. and Fort Riley, KS. Upon his retirement in 1974, they decided to move to Muskogee, OK, where they made their home.

Dorothy went to work at Viva's—an apparel and home accessory shop, which she purchased in 1982. For over 25 years, she owned Viva's and continued to work there with her daughter, Donna Bliss, until her retirement in 2011.

Her hobbies included family activities, reading, theatre, movies and her beloved pets. She is a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Her favorite quote—"True happiness—if you love to read, if you love nature and if you have a dog, you've got it made!"

She is preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Irma Koch.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Charles "Fred" Bliss; her children, James

Alan Bliss and Donna Ann Bliss; her grandchildren, James Curtis Bliss, Stephen "Michael" Hart, Elizabeth Bliss Hart, Madeline Jane Hart, Daniel Bliss and Danna Bliss; and her 3 great grandchildren; many other family members and friends who will miss her.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be 1:30 pm Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at St. Paul United Methodist Church with Reverend David Burris officiating. Serving as pallbearers will be Michael Hart, James Bliss, Billy Bliss, Chuck Purkey, Roy Flinn and Steven Stacks. Interment will be in Tahlequah City Cemetery in Tahlequah, OK.

The family suggests memorials be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church or PAWS.

Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 N. York Street, Muskogee, OK. Condolences may be made to the family online at [www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com](http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **20**. 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

FEB **22**. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
2130 W Okmulgee  
Muskogee, OK 74401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy Jane Bliss*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. My sympathy and prayers to the family.*

**Dana stites** - February 23, 2017 at 08:00 PM

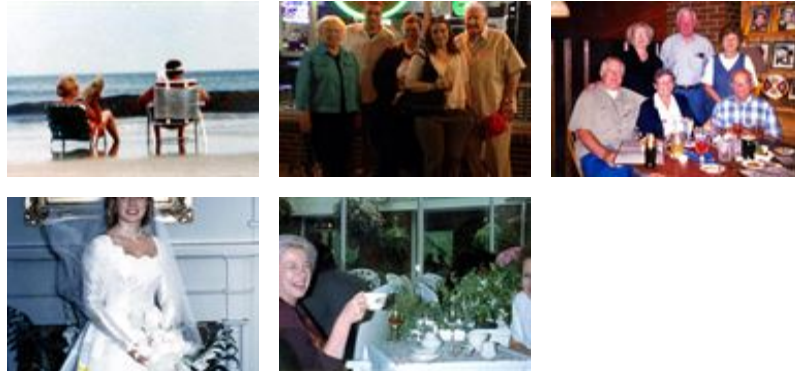


“ *I am behind in reading the newspaper, just read that Dorothy Jane Bliss had passed away. I didn't know her name until today. She was the owner of Viva's an elegant little store, you know the kind for some of us you think, I don't need to go in there. We moved to Muskogee in 1982 at that time her store was at Curt's Mall. Jessica was about 4 years old and just had to go in there, she had heard they had Jelly purses. Now this little store was unusual , lovely and elegant ladies clothes, knick knacks you would not see anywhere, plus one of a kind children's treasures. Jessica goes to the children's section and we could not find the purse she wanted, Dorothy spoke with her and asked her what she was looking for, Jesse explained, Dorothy goes to her storeroom comes out with a box she just got in ,full of the purses Jesse was talking about, she lets my girl go thru this box, like she was the most important customer in the world. We found the purse and the sale was about \$5.00. I'll have to say every time I went into her store, she treated me like I had a million dollars to spend. Thank you for making us feel special Dorothy Jane Bliss, well done good and faithful servant.*

**Hadee Branscum** - February 23, 2017 at 11:28 AM



“ 72 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory** - February 22, 2017 at 03:58 PM

NW

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Dorothy was a super nice lady and will be missed by so many! Our sympathy and prayers to the family.

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**Neil and Lisa Workman** - February 22, 2017 at 12:55 PM

SV

“ Dorothy was such a beautiful, sweet and kind friend very dear to our family. I'll never forget our conversations while shopping in Viva's, as well as, all the times she was concerned about our family members and what was going in our lives. You will be missed, but we will see you again!! Sincere sympathy to the precious family left behind to cherish the memory of this wonderful lady.

*Bill, Sandra, Nikki (Vaughn) Carlson, & Will Vaughn*

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**Sandra Vaughn** - February 22, 2017 at 09:13 AM

CS

“ Dorothy was a kind lady, always enjoyed shopping in Viva's....my heartfelt sympathy and prayers to her family.

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**cheryl stark** - February 22, 2017 at 08:05 AM

BH

“ Dorothy was such a beautiful lady. Always looked meticulous. Not a hair out of place. I loved shopping at Viva's. She will be greatly missed. Prayers to the family.

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**Betty Sue Honea** - February 21, 2017 at 04:11 PM

JM

“ What a sweet lady who I thought the world of. My sympathy to the family during this difficult time

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**Jan McKinne** - February 21, 2017 at 02:37 PM

BO

“ Many, Many years ago I worked at Viva's Boutique while it was still located in Curt's Mall and while I was home on summer break from OSU. After that, I frequented Viva's often to shop, and to see Dorothy, Donna and visit these dear friends that I had grown to love and admire. I was inspired by Dorothy and saw her as a strong women's role model and admired the fact that she (along with Viva and Donna) was someone who had brought a great sense of style, fashion and design to the Muskogee community. I loved Dorothy's advice to always hold firm and to " be yourself!" She told me once: "Why dress like someone else?". I never forgot it! She also gave great advice about other things like love, life and she always, always was the epitome of class and elegance! Many years have passed since that time, but I still love fashion and design and I think of Dorothy often as a great influence in my life and I pray that she is finding peace and rest.



*Donna: Blessings and Condolences to you and to your family--Love, Beverly Osborne (Hiner)*

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**Beverly Osborne** - February 21, 2017 at 01:44 PM

LJ

“ Dear Bliss Family - Dorothy was a wonderful woman. My Mom and I shopped Viva's a lot and enjoyed visiting with Dorothy. I know she will be missed by many.

*With my deepest sympathy - Linda McKenzie Johnson*

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**Linda Johnson** - February 21, 2017 at 07:40 AM

JC  
Dennis

“ JC Dennis lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Jane Bliss



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**JC Dennis** - February 20, 2017 at 05:44 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Dorothy Jane Bliss.



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February 20, 2017 at 02:09 PM

RM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy's family.

*Rick and Mary Kay McQueen*



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**Rick and Mary Kay McQueen** - February 19, 2017 at 06:49 PM

JU

“ Have you ever known someone who seemed larger than life that you never really imagined as mortal? I lost someone very dear to me today that I always viewed this way. I came to know Dorothy Bliss when I started working at an amazing little boutique called Viva's. Dorothy was the owner and she hired me on the spot. I worked at Viva's a total of 10 years. Throughout those years, Dorothy and her family were like family to me. Dorothy was one of those people that could teach you so much about life without you even realizing what you were learning. So many lessons taught throughout those 10 years that didn't come to light until later. I learned the importance of thoughtfulness, kindness and giving. I learned that even the smallest gift or token is made even more special by pretty packaging. I learned the importance of hand written notes. I learned the value of good customer service and how to count back change without using a calculator!! I never knew Dorothy's actual age but just assumed she was much younger than she was because she was so active and such a hard worker. Dorothy worked 6 days a week and was always going to the latest movie or play. She always had a book she was reading. She knew her customers inside and out and treated the regulars as friends. Their happy stories made her happy and their sad stories made her sad. She was so good to all of "her girls" (employees) and Christmas parties at her house were extra special. She and her daughter, Donna, came to visit me in my own boutique this past summer and that meant more to me than she will ever know. She truly taught me everything I know about customer service and personal touches and relationships. What a gem she was and how grateful I am to have known her. I encourage any of you who have a Dorothy in your life to let them know how much you appreciate them and let them know what they mean to you. Life is never as long as we think it will be and we should love on those who love us every opportunity we get. One of my friends and former Viva's coworkers said, "Heaven got a little classier today." That is oh so true. ❤️❤️❤️

Janie Underhill - February 19, 2017 at 04:15 PM

“ Have you ever known someone who seemed larger than life that you never really imagined as mortal? I lost someone very dear to me today that I always viewed this way. I came to know Dorothy Bliss when I started working at an amazing little boutique called Viva's. Dorothy was the owner and she hired me on the spot. I worked at Viva's a total of 10 years. Throughout those years, Dorothy and her family were like family to me. Dorothy was one of those people that could teach you so much about life without you even realizing what you were learning. So many lessons taught throughout those 10 years that didn't come to light until later. I learned the importance of thoughtfulness, kindness and giving. I learned that even the smallest gift or token is made even more special by pretty packaging. I learned the importance of hand written notes. I learned the value of good customer service and how to count back change without using a calculator!! I never knew Dorothy's actual age but just assumed she was much younger than she was because she was so active and such a hard worker. Dorothy worked 6 days a week and was always going to the latest movie or play. She always had a book she was reading. She knew her customers inside and out and treated the regulars as friends. Their happy stories made her happy and their sad stories made her sad. She was so good to all of "her girls" (employees) and Christmas parties at her house were extra special. She and her daughter, Donna, came to visit me in my own boutique this past summer and that meant more to me than she will ever know. She truly taught me everything I know about customer service and personal touches and relationships. What a gem she was and how grateful I am to have known her. I encourage any of you who have a Dorothy in your life to let them know how much you appreciate them and let them know what they mean to you. Life is never as long as we think it will be and we should love on those who love us every opportunity we get. One of my friends and former Viva's coworkers said, "Heaven got a little classier today." That is oh so true. ❤️❤️❤️  
Love,  
Janie Underhill

**Janie Underhill** - February 19, 2017 at 04:05 PM

BH

“ *Rest in Peace sweet Dorothy. It was such a pleasure knowing you. You will be missed.* ”



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**Becky Hearon** - February 18, 2017 at 09:21 PM