



Elizabeth Ann Ridenour

June 11, 1959 - February 3, 2025

Elizabeth Ann “Beth Ann” Waters Ridenour, a longtime reporter and editor for the Muskogee Phoenix newspaper, passed away at her home on Feb. 3 after a battle with cancer. She was 65.

Ridenour was born on June 11, 1959 in Muskogee to David Waters and Elizabeth Sanders Waters. She attended Pershing Elementary School and graduated from Muskogee High School in 1977 before attending Northeastern State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

On Aug. 8, 1978, she married James Douglas “Doug” Ridenour, the love of her life. The two remained together until Elizabeth’s passing.

In 1998, Ridenour joined the staff of the Muskogee Phoenix as a reporter, eventually receiving a promotion to City Editor and in 2019 was promoted to Executive Editor, the position she held until 2023.

Shortly after departing the Phoenix, she was diagnosed with cancer in her jaw and underwent treatment. In November of 2024, Ridenour was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer and succumbed to the disease.

Elizabeth and Doug were avid Atlanta Braves fans and attended a Braves game in Atlanta in 2019.

She liked attending and watching dogs shows, especially the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. She also enjoyed visiting museums with her daughter.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Jack Waters; sister, Carol Dyer; and two grandchildren, Chloe Alyssa and Lily Taylor.

She is survived by her husband, Doug; daughter, Emily Davison and husband Justin; brothers, Paul Waters of Muskogee and Bill Waters of Braggs; grandson, Travis Davison; and many cousins and friends.

Services for Elizabeth Ann Ridenour are 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 N. York St, Muskogee. Interment will be at Citizens Cemetery in Fort Gibson. Pallbearers will be Justin Davison, Travis Davison, Charles Pearson, David Pavey, Sammie Slavens and Mike Carrels.

Cemetery Details

Citizens Cemetery

Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Visitation

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

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

Service

FEB 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel
1830 N. York St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I would regularly work with Elizabeth as the PIO for the Muskogee Police Department. I always found her to be fair and impartial. She was a true professional. I never knew that we shared a love of Braves baseball! To your family, I am so sorry for your loss. Rest in peace, Elizabeth.

Michael Mahan - February 07, 2025 at 09:05 PM

BV

“ I had the honor of having Elizabeth as a student in a journalism class I taught at NSU in 1996. She was a super student with such a great attitude and work ethic. As she began to rise in the ranks of journalism I remember thinking that I was not surprised she was accomplishing so much and doing so well. Barrett Vanlandingham

Barrett Vanlandingham - February 07, 2025 at 05:16 PM

EH

I went to Jr. High & High School with Elizabeth. She was a very smart and wonderful student. I will miss her. Sleep with the angels in heaven.

Evon Harlin-Ingram - February 07, 2025 at 11:52 PM



“ 89 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 06, 2025 at 05:12 PM

LC

Sorry to hear about Elizabeth's passing. Elizabeth did a great job helping the Phoenix improve. She cared much about our community, too. Elizabeth strived to do the right thing. Larry Corvi

Larry Corvi - February 09, 2025 at 03:33 PM

FJ

“ From JCMVA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elizabeth Ann Ridenour.

From JCMVA - February 06, 2025 at 03:56 PM

FJ

“ From JCMVA purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elizabeth Ann Ridenour.



From JCMVA - February 06, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ann Ridenour.*



February 06, 2025 at 11:57 AM



“ *What a wonderful soul that will be truly missed. Many years ago I would talk to Elizabeth almost on a daily basis for articles she was writing. No matter how bad the situation or depressing the story was, Elizabeth would always point out the positives to get a smile out of me & to encourage me. May God wrap his arms around Elizabeth's family, friends & loved ones to comfort them during this difficult time.*

Bobby Lee - February 06, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ *The Maxwells purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elizabeth Ann Ridenour.*



The Maxwells - February 05, 2025 at 10:55 AM