



Mamie Alma Palmer

January 1, 1922 - February 17, 2018

“Red” Palmer was born Mamie Alma Nester in Hillsville, Virginia on 1 January 1922. She was the oldest of three and grew up on a small family farm. One of her earliest memories was riding behind her younger brother on the family plow horse. Life was hard sometimes but she never felt poor or disadvantaged. She was teased at school for having freckles and red hair and the nickname “Red” stuck throughout her life. She and her cousins climbed trees, made forts, played outside on sleds in winter and in the cold mountain streams in the summer. When they were made to come inside, they listened to radio and she dreamed of being a dancer. When she was 19 she got a job at the Camp Pickett, VA, Exchange. Camp Pickett was a deployment post for the U.S. Army and there she met a young infantry soldier named J.R. Palmer, from Muskogee, OK. It was love at first sight, and they would marry in Los Angeles, CA after WWII. J.R. coming home after being liberated from a German Prison camp and Mamie worked at an aircraft plant in L.A. riveting the leading wing covers on fighter aircraft. They were known as Soldier boy and Red the riveter. They returned to Muskogee to make their home. Daughter B.J. was born a year later. Red worked at a number of jobs, even taught herself bookkeeping, but her first love was being a beauty operator. She opened a one chair shop in their converted den on York Street and in a few years owned a large shop two blocks north on York. She and her dear “girls” Anna, Marion, Jean, Carol, Connie (her “daughters by other mothers) made Muskogee beautiful for over 40 years. Red and J.R. were active

members of Grace Episcopal Church where she helped with the acolyte program, Sunday school, Women of Grace and baking for countless coffee hours with her special pal, Catherine Blackwell. When she finally retired, she continued to be a faithful member of American Ex-Prisoners of War, she fed the birds, (especially the hummingbirds), gardened, travelled, practiced Tai Chi and Yoga, supported PAWS, and continued to “help out at the shop”. She was predeceased by her mother, Retta Lee Nester; sister, Edith; brother, Howard; and her beloved J.R.

She is survived by her dear sister, Asterie Holt of Powhatan, VA; best cousin, Ann Dalton of Blackstone, VA; niece, Mericia Boyles and Husband Larry of Dillwyn, VA; numerous great nieces, nephews and cousins; Daughter, B.J. Charbonneau and husband John of Okay, OK; Five grandchildren, Terry Charbonneau, wife, Lorna, and great-granddaughters, Erin and Lauren of San Diego, CA; Evelyn Charbonneau, partner, Ben and great-granddaughter, Brittany and husband Trent of Desert Hills, AZ; Ken Charbonneau of Seattle, WA; Sylvia Charbonneau and great-grandson, Brandon of Phoenix, AZ; and Jamie Charbonneau and partner Cole of Kelmscott, Western Australia.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be made to Grace Episcopal Church at: <http://www.gracemuskogee.org/giving/>, PAWS Muskogee at: <http://pawsforadoption.com/donations.html>, or Salvation Army of Muskogee at: <http://secure20.salvationarmy.org/donation.jsp>.

A graveside service will be 10:00 A.M., Thursday, February 22, 2018 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Father Bob Wickizer officiating. A church conducted Holy Communion Service will be 2:00 P.M., Thursday, February 22, 2018 at Grace Episcopal Church with a reception to follow in Parish Hall.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 20. 12:00 PM - 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

Graveside Service

FEB 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery
1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Mamie Alma Palmer*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *My Dear sweet Lady. I love you and always made sure I told you this each time I spoke to you. I enjoyed all the time we got to spend with each other so much and so glade that well always be a part of me. My heart knows you are where God wanted you and there is no more pain. That smile is always in my heart and mind to never change. The loving family have enjoyed you for a long time and so glade we could. Now you enjoy your self. We love you, until we see you again.*

Mericia Larry Boyles - February 21, 2018 at 05:56 PM



“ *1 file added to the album LifeTributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 21, 2018 at 12:05 PM



“ 7 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 20, 2018 at 05:49 PM

RM

“ A beautiful lady that brought beauty into lives of many..I count it a pleasure to have known Red and J.R. for more than 70 years and loved them much..they both left an indelible mark in Muskogee that cannot be erased..

Rose Meeks - February 20, 2018 at 04:29 PM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 20, 2018 at 03:06 PM

JC

Special Lady

Janice Meredith Curtis - February 20, 2018 at 06:29 PM

KA

“Red was a very special lady. She was warm and friendly with a great sense of humor. I admired her strength and spirit. She was an inspiration to our Stretch and Flex Class at the Swim and Fitness Center. She will be greatly missed. May God Bless B.J. and her family. May He give them peace in knowing they will see Red again, in Heaven.

Love,
Karen and Tommy Taylor

Karen - February 19, 2018 at 11:27 AM

GW

“Red was the first beautician to cut my hair. My mother, Nadine Harnage loved Red so much and went to her for years. I will never forget my mom taking my sister, Kitty and me to Red's shop on York Street to get perms, then after that we would walk the two doors down to the little drug store. Red was a great and long time friend of the Harnage's. My prayers are with Red's family.

Gail Harnage Ward

Gail Harnage Ward - February 18, 2018 at 07:07 AM

GW

“Gail Harnage Ward lit a candle in memory of Mamie Alma Palmer



Gail Harnage Ward - February 18, 2018 at 07:02 AM