



## Ruth Ann Arndt

January 5, 1934 - August 21, 2014

Ruth Ann Rodgers Arndt was born January 5, 1934 in Lincoln, Nebraska to Clifford A. and Gladys M. (Robinson) Rodgers. Her early years were spent in Nebraska and Kansas but most of her public schooling came in Muskogee, Ok. She attended A. R. Jr. High and graduated from old Central High School in 1951. After graduation she attended Bethany Nazarene College, Muskogee Junior College and eventually gained her B. S. and Masters of Education from Northeastern State University. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

On June 14, 1952 she married Darrell R. Arndt in Muskogee, OK and that marriage dissolved. After that she completed her education and she began her teaching career in Eufaula, OK. She then moved to Muskogee Public Schools and was one of the first teachers to begin the integration process teaching at old Sadler Jr. High School. She would later teach at West High Jr. High School and McCoy's returning to West High until retirement.

She loved teaching and loved her students and tried to make her classes enjoyable and challenging. A high point of each year was the Science Fair and one of her most rewarding experiences was accompanying one of her students who qualified for the International Science Fair held in San Diego, CA.

After retiring from teaching she kept an active lifestyle. She enjoyed being a

Flea Market vendor, gardening, building masonry projects, cutting and splitting her own firewood and being an active member of the volunteer services at Muskogee Regional, now Eastar medical center. By April, 2014 she had contributed over 4,500 volunteer hours, serving as vice-president and later president of that service. In everything she did she believed that if you were going to do something do it right and would give 150%.

She was an avid fan of OU football except when they played Nebraska when she returned to her roots and cheered for the red and white instead of the Crimson and Cream. Through the years she was steadfast in her faith in Jesus Christ and very active in church activities and choirs until her health began to fade.

She was preceded in death by her parents and both brothers; C. Bill Rodgers and Charles A. Rodgers.

She is survived by one son, Tom Arndt and wife Janell; a granddaughter Julia C. Arndt; a grandson David B. Arndt and wife Sarah. Great grandchildren Joshua, Rachel and Uriah Arndt. She is also survived by other relatives and many friends including two furry friends, Snoopy and Frisky.

Family visitation will be Monday, August 25, 2014 at Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 N. York St. Muskogee from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Funeral services celebrating Ruth's life will be 11:00 am, Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at New Life Center, 4025 Gibson St., Muskogee, OK with Pastor Philip Morris officiating. Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers will be David Arndt, Jason Todd, Ronald Cagle, Jon Garrett, Donald Jaquez, and Kenneth Greenfield Jr. Honorary pallbearers will be Donald Beach and John Gragg.

Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home and

Crematory, 1830 North York Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com](http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **24**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

AUG **25**. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

AUG **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Center  
4025 Gibson St  
Muskogee, OK 74403

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Ann Arndt*

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October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *To the family of Ruth Arndt. We waited for her to return home, recalling the early morning she walked out of her home to the ambulance, I waived and told her everything will be alright. She is alright in the loving arms of God. I will miss her coming across the street to gather grass I had mowed she put around her shrubery. I will miss her riding on her mower, praying that she does not drive into the street. I will miss her climbing on her ladder clearing her roof and trimming her bushes. SHE was such an inspiration to me watching her build her rock retaining wall driving her truck or just walking around. A pillar of strength and integrity yet frail she is not forhottened, everytime I feel I cannot do something I remind myself , What would Ms. ARNDT DO! I could not attend the funeral because I remember walking to the vehicle taking a visit! Family be encouraged your mother, grandmother lived a full life and did it her way. Your Neighbor 2625 Arline and educator akind, Mary Toles Brice and family.*

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**Mary Brice** - August 27, 2014 at 11:57 AM

AF

“ *Janell & Julia Arndt & family,*

*My sincerest condolences for the loss of your loved one. I pray that God will grant peace & comfort to your family during this difficult time.*

*With sympathy,  
April Foster  
Muskogee VARO*

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**April Foster** - August 26, 2014 at 03:14 PM

KH

“ *We now live in Surprise, AZ and God told me to check Muskogee obituaries today August 26th. Sure enough, there was a reason. Our friend Ruth had gone to Heaven. Lorene and I live in Surprise, AZ*

*We pray for Tom and family to have peace in their hearts and we know they are comforted because they know God.*

*Ruth, you didn't see or hear much out of us but we love you.*

*God Bless*

*Ken and Lorene Holladay*



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**Ken Holladay** - August 26, 2014 at 12:40 PM

SW

“ To Ms. Arndt's family and friends:

*Science was not my "thing". Didn't like it because I didn't really care about it. I didn't relate it to the things I was interested in, or how it was relevant to my limited view of life. Then came Mrs. Arndt. Patient. Calm. Committed. Knowledgeable. Lively ...and so funny! Her dry wit caught me off guard and also got me over such things as dissecting "critters". She made science relatable to my life and everyday things and she taught us how to look for the science behind everything. Suddenly I could see science when I was spelunking with my dad, or watching baby chicks hatch at grandpas, or looking at the X-rays of my broken toe with the doctor. Aha!*

*If she had class favorites, she didn't treat anyone differently. I suspect we each thought we were favored, you just wouldn't see it as one student being treated better or worse than another. She was exacting and expected our best efforts - she told us that on the first day. She was patient with us when she saw we were trying but not "getting it". If you didn't try, she kept looking for a way to make it interesting or relatable for you. She would ask about your hobbies and interests and use those as examples. I truly think she believed in each of us.*

*What a wonderful, wonderful teacher you shared with us, a bunch of rowdy ninth graders doing a new thing. It was our first foray into being the big kids, but we were also the first class to participate in the joining of Sadler to the de-segregation efforts in Muskogee and there were some tense times. Some of us had gone to "mixed" schools and some had not. So it wasn't easy to be a teacher with that age group and during a major social transition. I doubt that we appreciated that aspect of her gifts at the time. I am grateful to her and so happy to be able to see how what she gave us continues to grow. Never doubt that she remains; not only in those of you who share her DNA, but also in each of us that she taught.*

*Sharee (Stokes) Wells*

*Tulsa and Merida, Yucatan, Mexico*

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**Sharee Wells** - August 25, 2014 at 11:44 AM

CB

“ To the family or Ms. Arndt:

*I am so sorry about the loss of your dear mother and grandmother. Mrs Arndt was my ninth grade Biology I teacher in '71-'72. What an awesome teacher she was at the Sadler ninth grade building. She was so inspiring to her students to aspire to be the best we could be. I loved her and she loved her students. Ninth grade was made better because of her. She wrote in my ninth grade yearbook, "Don't let problems get you down. You are okay and fun to have as a student. Don't forget me! Best of luck in the future. Ruth Arndt '72" She wrote those words because we were the first class that was at Sadler that year and there were tensions due to de-segregation of our schools. She was a leader to prove that ALL students could achieve if we opened our minds to overcome adversity together as a community. A gift to all of her students.*

*I didn't ever forget her and went back to visit her until my family moved away in 1976. Because of her teachings in my first exposure to Life Science, I developed a love for learning all things in Science. I made great grades in college in my BiSci and Earth Science classes because her. I went on two trips with my kids to Costa Rica on school Science trips where we planted trees to reforest the rain forest in that part of Central America and told the kids that they will never forget Mrs. Elkins, the teacher leading the trip. It was there that I told my kids and their fellow students about Mrs. Arndt and her love of Science and how she instilled in us to search in knowledge of all things.*

*I was blessed to know her and to have her as a teacher. My sincere sympathy to all who mourn her loss and prayers for God's peace and grace as you celebrate a life whose life touched so many.*

*Sincerely,*

*Claudia Holdridge Bartlett  
Sapulpa, Oklahoma*

**Claudia Bartlett** - August 25, 2014 at 08:20 AM

IS

“ *I am so sorry to read about Ruth Ann. She and her family are good friends. I just saw her two weeks ago . I am so sad. Love and Prayers for everyone.*

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**Ina Scroggins** - August 23, 2014 at 01:53 PM

LS

“ *Ruth and I go way back and used to attend church together. She was always smiling and ready with a quick laugh. She loved the Lord with her whole heart and her light shined brightly in this world and will be greatly missed. I know where Ruth is today and can only feel joy at her being home. She has seen the originator of life and light!!! Love and prayers to her family.*



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**Linda Sizemore** - August 23, 2014 at 09:46 AM