



Marcella Grace Ruckman

May 24, 1941 - March 20, 2023

Marcella Grace Ruckman was born May 24, 1941 at the old Lawton Indian Hospital to Julius C. and Richenda Hendrix Smith. She passed away Monday, March 20, 2023 in Anadarko at the age of 81. A childhood resident of Anadarko, Marcella was a 1960 graduate of Anadarko High School. She then enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and was stationed at 5th Army Headquarters in Chicago, IL to the Adjutant General's office. She married Richard A. Ruckman on July 23, 1964 in Chicago, IL and traveled to various military installations as a naval wife. This included Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, VA and Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands. Upon returning to the mainland, she worked at the WCD's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program in the early 1980's. She then worked for tribal governments as program director for various tribal programs. She later worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food and Nutrition Service's Southwest Region where she received a commendation for her 12 years of service on government-to-tribal initiatives for the federal agency. She retired in 2004. Marcella was a lifelong member of Rock Spring Indian Baptist Church and was active as a tribal elder in her later years. She was also an advocate for veteran's benefits during her retirement. Survivors include her husband, Richard of the home; 2 daughters: Susan of the home and Theresa Tsoodle of Norman, OK. She also had 3 nieces and 3 nephews, 1 great-niece and 1 great-nephew, as well as 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives. Marcella is preceded in death by her parents, J.C. and

Richenda Smith;3 brothers: Phillip Major Smith, Rev. Al Smith and Farley Smith; 1 sister, Gwendolyn Lewis.Viewing is slated for 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel in Anadarko. A prayer service will follow from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday at Smith's. Graveside services are scheduled for 10:00 A.M., Thursday, at Rock Spring Cemetery, north of Anadarko. Services are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, Anadarko, Oklahoma.Condolences may be sent to the family at www.smithfuneralservices.com

Tribute Wall

KH

“ We're so sorry to hear about your family's loss. May God's promises comfort your hearts and give you hope. Acts 24:15. You will be in our thoughts.

K. Hope - April 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Richard & Gracie were our neighbors for many years on Squaretop Road. We couldn't have asked for better and we have missed them in the years since we moved to OKC. We are so very sorry to hear of her passing, but I know we will see her again. Love & prayers for you, Richard, and your daughters.
Friends forever,
Faron & Dana Morris

Dana Morris - March 26, 2023 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ In honor and loving memory of my Army Sister, Gracie Ruckman.

With love, Terry Realmuto - March 26, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ *Richard, Susan, Theresa*

Gracy and I were lifetime friends ,the moment we met in basic training. We were stationed in Chicago,I'll together at Fifth Army Headquarters. We also went to Washington D.C for the Dedication of the Women's Memorial. A very special time for us both.

I was blessed to have her and Susan and Theresa visit me and my family in New York. Also when Gracy and Richard visit in 2007. What a wonderful visit it was.

I will miss my soul sister and are conversations and cards, and having the comfort of Gracy being only a phone call away.

Richard, Susan, Theresa my heart feels your pain. I'm sure she has a front row seat in heaven for she has earned it for always caring and helping others.

I will March on without my Army Sister and thank god each day that we met. STAY STRONG AND STAY PROUD. For that's what Gracy would want for everyone.

*Your Army SISTER,
Theresa Zygmunt Realmuto
God Bless, Rest In Peace 💕*

Theresa Zygmunt Realmuto - March 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM