



Myrtle Odessa Chandler Stevens

March 16, 1925 - November 4, 2021

Myrtle Odessa (Chandler) Stevens, 96, passed from this earth to eternity in Heaven on Thursday, November 4th, 2021 at her home in Gracemont, Oklahoma with her family by her side. She was born on March 16th, 1925 in Gracemont, OK to William and Molissie (Treat) Chandler. She grew up in Gracemont and graduated from Gracemont High School. Myrtle married the love of her life, Garland Stevens, on January 15, 1942 in Gracemont, OK. She and Garland shared a love for farming and ranching which they shared the entirety of their married life. She remained active in the farming operation her entire life as she balanced being a loving mother, devoted wife and active church member. She continued with her education and received her bachelor's degree in Home Economics from Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha and then went on to earn her masters degree in Home Economics from OU. She also earned a degree in Art Education from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO). She spent 26 years teaching students at Ninnekah Public School, Riverside Indian School, Gracemont High School, Eakly High School and USAO. She worked full time as the alumni director at USAO for 12 years and was recognized and honored for her many years of service by having the Stevens Alumni House named in her honor. The state of Oklahoma awarded her the Home Economics Teacher of the Year in 1976 and she was awarded the National Home Economics Teacher of the year in 1978. She received the National Distinguished Service Award in 1989 from the Future Home Makers Association. She was also active with the Oklahoma

Girls State. With so much emphasis on education and being an educator you would think that was her passion in life, but that was not the case. Her true passions could be made an acronym of FFF (Faith, Family and Farm). Her faith in Christ is what truly allowed her to live such an accomplished and fulfilling life. Her stories of faith and miracles that she experienced throughout her life were heard by everyone that encountered her. She and her husband Garland were very involved with their home church of Gospel Lighthouse in Anadarko from its inception in 1975 to present. In addition to teaching Sunday School, she served as the church secretary for over 40 years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, great aunt and friend to an untold number of people she encountered in life. Anyone who knew her, was aware of her ability to tell a captivating story, These were often stories that incorporated FFF. It was evident from those who knew her that of all her accomplishments in life, that aside from her love of Jesus, some of her proudest moments were those she spent working on the farm. From early years of milking cows, picking cotton, working ground with a team of mules to recent years of taking food to the field during peanut harvest, she was always involved and ready to put in an honest days work. She is survived by: Two sons: Rickey Lynn Stevens of Gracemont, OK Garland Duane Stevens, Anadarko, OK Grandsons: Ryan Lynn Stevens and his wife, Michelle , Gracemont, OK Radley Lance Stevens and his fiance, Katherine Palmer, Anadarko, OK Great-Grandchildren: Mercy Lee Stevens, Justus Lynn Stevens and Garland Faith Stevens Niece: Lynda Price and her husband, Dan, Goldsby, OK Great-Nephews: Matthew and Annette Price and their children; Rachel, Remy and Miranda Christopher and Haley Price and their son, James Numerous other nieces, nephews and friends She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Molissie Chandler, her husband, Garland Stevens, her siblings; Vonnie Davidson, Boyd Chandler, Loyd Chandler, Esther Newnum and Vernie Hines, Her daughter-in-law, Rita Stevens. Funeral Services: 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, November, 10, 2021 Gospel Lighthouse Church, Anadarko, OK Officiating: Rev. Gary Butler Burial: Gracemont

Cemetery, Gracemont, OK Services under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK Messages of condolences may be sent to the family at www.smithfuneralservices.com

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Myrtle I think of you so often & you are even in my dreams sometimes. Hope to see you soon.*

Renee Moore - March 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *She was a good lady she will be missed*



Robert Reyes - November 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *Prayers to the family*

Robert Reyes - November 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ *What a lady!! I spent many hours beside her when she taught at Eakly! She was a "pusher"! She could push you into doing things you had no idea you could do! She believed in me and encouraged me to be active In Young Homemakers of Oklahoma! Before I was finished, i was President of this state wide organization! Thank you , Myrtle, for "pushing" so many into being something they never dreamed of being. She was a teacher, friend, and even a kin folk to me. RIP in peace!!!❤️*

Becky - November 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Sometimes a person comes into your life that has a lifetime impression on you, Myrtle was that type of person to me & later in life to my daughter Jennie. My first one on one connection to her was in the summer before I started High School at Gracemont after being at Washita for 2 years, she made a home visit & informed me that she would be my Home Economics Teacher. She was a very dedicated Teacher & wanted all of her students to succeed. I have a lot of fond memories of FHA, class projects, & fund raisers as she was also our Class Sponsor. Thirty years later, she became a great Mentor & Home Economics College Professor to my daughter Jennie at USAO and was very instrumental in her getting a double Major in Early Childhood & Home Economics. when she helped my daughter without hesitation succeed in college (whom she had never met before) it was a major blessing to us. That is a true Educator to go the extra mile for a student & become a great Mentor. Rest in Peace With a grateful heart Judy Bentley Herron Jennie Lee

Judy Bentley Herron - November 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Myrtle was an inspiration to myself and others who served on the USAO Board of Directors under her leadership. She always wanted what was right for our school. Prayers for her family.

Lila Stanfill Hoover - November 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Myrtle was a great lady. It was a privilege to know her. Rest in paradise Myrtle.



Lisa Collins Peralta - November 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *My first memory of shopping was with this sweet lady! She took me to TGY while my Mom was working and let me shop Of course we ended up with a. Any doll! I often sat with her in church and love those memories. She was a very special and classy Lady!*

Sheila Parker - November 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Love and Prayers!!! She was a Blessing to all that knew her!!!*

Bill Reedy - November 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *She was the kindest woman I have met and she always helped me while I attended college. She helped me find scholarships. She always prayed for me and wanted the best! She will definitely have a full crown of jewels in heaven.*

Ruth Gonzales - November 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ *Myrtle was my home economics teacher in high school. She was very dedicated to her students. She came into the Cafe when my family owned it. She and I sat and visited many a time. We discussed old Gracemont, people that had went ahead of us, the buildings that used to be, and most importantly Jesus Christ and God's goodness to us. She was a most wonderful person. She loved her family and her heavenly father. I loved this precious lady and will miss her. She was an angel placed here by God Almighty and now called home.*

Elrod Mary - November 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM