



Belle Brown Cahoon

April 17, 1923 - August 24, 2019

Our beloved Belle, 96, stopped ringing August 24, 2019 surrounded by family at her daughter's home in Muskogee. She was born April 17, 1923 to Charles Brown and Edna Spurlock at home in Fort Gibson. The eldest of seven, she grew up a shy and hardworking farm girl. In her lifespan Belle endured the depression, dust bowl and war years that forever affected her values. She began a life and love of learning at home followed by her aunt's teachings in a one room rural schoolhouse named for her Brown family.

Encouraged in the company of her siblings, cousins and country neighbors, she thrived among them, gaining additional benefits of educational support through her Spurlock family. She joined the Fort Gibson Presbyterian church at age 12 and remained a faithful member into her nineties. Belle cared for both grandmothers while pursuing and finishing her education. She was part of the first class to graduate in 1941 from the newly WPA built high school. She furthered her education at Northeastern State College and Draughn's Business school in Muskogee. Her initial work experience included USO Traveler's Aid, OG&E, and the YWCA.

A chance meeting with Alvin Cahoon who was training with the Rainbow Division at Camp Gruber in the summer of 1943 led to a wartime courtship and marriage at Fort Gibson First Presbyterian Church on October 31, 1947. Al and Belle began their life together in Oklahoma City, moved East to Al's home state of Massachusetts starting their family where all three children were born at Ft. Devens Army Hospital in Shirley, Mass.

Unforeseen circumstances brought Belle back to Oklahoma where she continued raising her children in the same familiar surroundings where she was raised, providing a solid family and faith based foundation. Belle supported her family with the same determination and commitment she experienced in her childhood. As a Single Parent, with a nurturing spirit, she thrived with them and managed to attend and support most all activities. She retired as a legal secretary feeling grateful never having to interview for a job once during her career. She spent her remaining life traveling with her children and grandchildren. She loved poetry, music, reading, nature, solving puzzles, exploring and sharing in conversations. She will be remembered for her deep devotion and love of family and the countless friends she collected wherever she traveled. She genuinely loved meeting and sharing stories with everyone. Belle's remarkable ability to recall life stories enhanced her

love of genealogy. She was sincerely interested in everyone she met, always encouraging, supporting and validating them. Her memory was as deep as her contentment. She managed to thrive in spite of adversity or difficulty. She spent her life in service of others inspiring, encouraging and desiring the best for everyone. Friends describe her as optimistic, enthusiastic, hardworking, kind, compassionate, gentle with a beautiful smile and joyful spirit. The charity she expressed throughout her lifetime matched her huge and humble heart. Deeply contented until her life's end, she never complained. Belle is preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Cahoon; son, Charles Cahoon; sisters, Helen Castleberry, Edna Bastlanelli and Janie Cook; brother, Charles Brown; her parents, Charles and Edna Spurlock Brown.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Anne Marie Baldwin of Marina, CA and Carolyn Diane Watts and husband Bob of Muskogee, OK; granddaughters, Angela Rusher and husband Stephen of Moraga, CA and Dianna Vidales and husband Eloy of Concord, CA; great granddaughters, Avery and Willa Rusher of Moraga, CA., Arden Vidales of Concord, CA; brothers, Forrest David Brown and Dan 'Mickey' Brown both of Fort Gibson and a host of extended family and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly request memorial donations to the First Presbyterian Church @ PO Box 1563 Fort Gibson, OK 74434.

A visitation is planned for Friday, November 29, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Gibson with the family receiving friends 5PM-7PM.

A celebration of Belle's life will be 1:00PM Saturday, November 30, 2019 in the Fort Gibson First United Methodist Church with Clergy, family and friends officiating. A social hour with refreshments will be immediately following Belle's Life Celebration. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The family of Belle C. (Brown) Cahoon has entrusted her cremation and memorial service to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555.

Belle's family would appreciate your thoughts and memories of her on our online condolence page @ clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com, as this would be most meaningful to them all.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Road
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
228 N Lee
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Celebration of Life

NOV **30**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church Fort Gibson
302 Beauregard St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Tribute Wall



“ *Belle Brown Cahoon*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ *James Harris lit a candle in memory of Belle Brown Cahoon*



James Harris - June 05, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ *I was so excited that Ma Belle got to come to my wedding only a few short years ago. She was such a sweet woman and will be missed greatly. Thoughts and prayers for the Cahoon family.— Love, Gabriella Cuellar-Cox*

Gabriella - November 30, 2019 at 12:45 PM



“ *Our precious Belle, I met Belle back in the mid 90's at Andrews AFB. I knew when I met Belle, there was something special about her. We talked and laughed as if we had known each other for years. I knew Carolyn, and eventually met Anne and I knew where they got their kindness and compassion . I can't remember a time when Belle wasn't smiling. As long as I've known her, I've never heard her say an unkind word about anyone. Along with my mother, she was the sweetest, kindest, most compassionate lady I have ever known. She was very so funny too and always reminded us of memories otherwise we may have forgotten. She loved to travel, if the wheels were turning, she was ready to go. She came to my daughters wedding in Arkansas, in the heat, in her 90's. Our family was so happy they came. Bob and Carolyn took such good care of her. Her smile brightens heaven now. We will miss her. We love you Belle.
Collette & Andy*

collette cuellar - November 29, 2019 at 10:46 PM



“ 15 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home - November 27, 2019 at 08:11 PM



“ 84 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home - November 26, 2019 at 09:28 PM



“ *Eunice & Mickey lit a candle in memory of Belle Brown Cahoon*



Eunice & mickey - November 24, 2019 at 05:49 PM

AR

“ 24 files added to the album Baldwin-Rusher Memories of YaYa Belle



Angela Rusher - November 13, 2019 at 10:11 PM

JB

“ I have fond memories of knowing Belle way back when we were both "legal secretaries".

I didn't see her as much later in life, but on the rare instances when I did, it was as if we were instantly back in the "good old days". She was special and I know we will all miss her.

Janey Boydston

Janey Boydston - October 17, 2019 at 02:57 PM

GP

“ Belle was such a wonderful lady. She made me feel special every time I saw her. Prayers for her family.

Greg Payton - September 22, 2019 at 06:05 PM

PG

“ Sweet sweet Belle. What a wonderful kind caring person. I have such fond memories of Belle when I was a child at my dads office. Her taking me Christmas shopping to buy my mom a gift and spending the weekend at her house with Carolyn and Anne. She made this world a better place for all who knew and loved her. Hugs and prayers to Carolyn Anne and family as you grieve her loss.

Patti Gannaway

Patti Gannaway - September 19, 2019 at 06:39 AM

LM

“ Belle always made us feel welcome. She remembered conversations from a previous visit and was interested to know everything new that had happened since. We don't know how she remembered all that for all her extended family. It was as if she was the family historian and stored all the information away for future memories. Her voice was always soft and her words always encouraging. A special lady.

Patti Spurlock
Linda Millspaw
Terry Millspaw

Linda Millspaw - September 12, 2019 at 10:50 AM

LM

“ I will miss my wonderful, soft spoken cousin Bell. So much like my own beloved Grandmother, Antonia. It never mattered how long it had been since the last conversation we just picked up where we left off. Such a gentle, loving person. Prayers and much love to all my family.

Loranna & Bill Minor

Loranna Minor - September 09, 2019 at 12:38 PM

SN

“ Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. A beautiful soul is never forgotten.

Stephanie Newton - September 07, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Thompson-Rhodes - September 06, 2019 at 01:47 PM

JF

“ I will always see her beautiful smile, the twinkle in her eyes & that gorgeous head of hair. I will always hear her soft, uplifting voice & her contagious, sweet giggle. I will always feel her deep in my heart & soul & will continue on this path in life knowing she & those who have gone before us are right there by our sides. Thank you Aunt Belle for your love of life, passing it on & always making profound connections wherever you were.
We miss you dearly & love you deeply. Julie Foote

Julie Foote - September 01, 2019 at 07:22 PM

“ Belle and I met in Beaufort, South Carolina many years ago. It was love at first sight! We “recognized” each other like long lost family members. It wasn’t just because we were both from Oklahoma. We loved each other in the kind of deep way that normally takes a lifetime but in our case took almost no time.



Being with Belle felt like I had just come home again after a long absence. As we would visit and share our lives together I would relax into the unconditional love she just naturally radiated and absorb her wise counsel that was interwoven into the stories that she would tell me.

She made me feel so special yet I know that so very many people could have written much that I have just written, substituting themselves for me. You see, that was the magic of Belle. Whether we know each other or not, if we are fellow people who loved Belle, if we are joined together because Belle loved us, then we are living proof that Belle’s life mattered immensely.

I feel that my own personal ability to love other people compassionately and to care about and enjoy nature has been enhanced tremendously by my being a recipient of Belle’s influence.

My world will always be a more benevolent place for Belle’s having been a part of it.

I love you with all of my being, Belle! Thank you for loving me and my family. Thank you for your tender caring and your gentle lessons. Your stories are always with me as are you, sweet spirit!!

For Carolyn, Anne and Bob, I witness your loss and acknowledge that your precious hearts have sustained a mighty blow. You were all loved so completely and thoroughly by Belle! I believe that she is STILL loving you. Why would she let something like the death of her physical self stand in the way of her loving you? I love each of you, too, and I pray that your hearts are mended and that you are all held up by your love for each other. ✨🕊️✨🕊️✨🕊️

JB

“ I am remembering my Aunt Belle as such a gentle, kind, optimistic and loving Aunt. She was my Dads, Charlie Brown, older sister. She was always interested in what I was up to and How Cassady and I were doing. She, Carolyn and Maggie(Carolyn’s dog), would come visit my shop, Beaded Sisters, all the time and we would sit and eat lunch and have wonderful talks while Maggie would shop😭

What I learned most from Aunt Belle though, was witnessing the unlimited amount of unconditional love she had for her family. Her bond with her daughter Carolyn was such a sweet endearing bond they truly were Mother/Daughter best friends.

Anytime someone here in Tulsa said someone left pears on their front porch, we knew it was Aunt Belle and Carolyn dropping off some love.

She would also leave pears, apples and pecans at Dads grave sight💖

Aunt Belle was truly a remarkable Woman and at 96, had a truly remarkable life. I loved her dearly and will miss her very much but take solace in knowing she is with many family members now. Thank you Aunt Belle, for your love and light. 🙏

LOVE TO ALL 😘

Jennifer Brown

jennifer brown - August 29, 2019 at 09:03 AM

CW

“ Dear Carolyn,Bob and Anne,

Belle was a very sweet ,loving, kind, generous,Beautiful person. We wish we had more like her. She gave us precious memories to think of her. She will never be forgotten.

She made the Brown name proud!!

Our deepest condolences
Our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Love, cousin Margaret and Rick and Family

Carolyn Watts - August 28, 2019 at 08:23 PM

CW

“ Betsy told me about Ma Belle. 96?! Wow! I’ll never forget how, when she was going to meet mom, and we warned her that mom was quite a talker, she simply said "I believe I can hold my own." Still cracks me up. :-)

Anyway, sending love and sympathy from here. ❤️

Kit Kemp

Carolyn Watts - August 28, 2019 at 08:20 PM

BW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bob Watts - August 28, 2019 at 06:09 PM

WB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Watts Bob - August 28, 2019 at 03:18 PM

WB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Watts Bob - August 27, 2019 at 08:07 PM

MN

So very sorry to hear of Belle's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family

Mary Narcum - August 28, 2019 at 11:28 AM

CF

Though I've many fond memories of Belle, doubtless the most endearing pertained to the case of the missing sunglasses. On what memory serves was a particularly sunny afternoon, Belle had misplaced her designer (Christian Dior?) shades. Not one to let petty mishaps get her down, Belle soldiered on through the cemetery. Unbeknownst to Belle, however, I'd found those specs back in the car. Naturally, I put them on and sauntered up to then along side her, awaiting her discovery that, yes, somehow, those sunglasses looked awfully familiar. Didn't take Belle long to realize I was sporting her shades. We both got big kicks after the rightful owner donned her glasses. Besides, pretty sure Belle looked better wearing them than I did.

Chas Foote

Chas Foote - September 01, 2019 at 07:04 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about losing Belle. She was one of, if not, the sweetest person I have ever met. Having your family as my neighbor all those years ago helped make my childhood a happy one! My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Love to all of sweet Belle's family
Carol Cavin Wheeler

Carol Wheeler - August 26, 2019 at 11:24 PM

RK

“ Brenda and I are so very sorry to hear about Belle's passing. Brenda's memories go back to her childhood days and mine go back to when Belle lived in Chelmsford Mass. We will never forget her kindness and the love she share with us for all these years.

Carolyn, you are so much like your mom, her caring and loving ways will always shine through you. Belle will live in our hearts forever.

Carolyn, Anne and Bob, May God Bless you all.

Love Brenda and Ralph

Ralph & Brenda Kelley - August 26, 2019 at 06:31 PM

CM

“ Grandma Belle has been in my life for as long as I can remember. One of my fondest memories of her was when she visited our home for my sister's wedding. My grandfather, an expatriate Oklahoman, was also visiting. The two of them spent hours reminiscing in the living room, and decided that Belle, a Brown by birth, and my grandfather (William Brown), just had to be distantly related (Browns have to stick together!). They weren't together for more than a day or two, but for years afterwards my grandfather would ask about Belle. That's who Belle was: the sweetest, most big-hearted woman you could imagine, who you'd always remember even after just spending a day with her.

There's the tradition of the 36 good people whose simple existence justifies the world. This is how I think about Grandma Belle.

My thoughts are with Carolyn and Bob and Anne as they live without Belle in their lives.

Collin Meyers

Collin Meyers - August 26, 2019 at 12:25 PM

GC

“ I remember Ma Belle from when I was a little kiddo when my family was stationed in DC. 20 years later she made it to my wedding and it was such a special memory to have her there and she will be forever missed.

Gabriella Cox - August 25, 2019 at 04:11 PM

JS

“ We are so sorry over the loss of your Mother. It's so hard to put into words how we feel. Belle was a Beautiful Lady and had a wonderful Smile. We loved her and she will be missed. We remember the times we saw her in Marina. She loved everyone so much. We have one more STAR in the sky shinning brightly and she will always watch over her Family. We are so sorry over your Loss. We love you. Jim, Vivian and Family



James Selby - August 25, 2019 at 01:30 PM

AC

“ My heart is broken today. I just found out the world lost an incredible lady. She was one of those people you never forget. I have so many great memories of MaBell. She was one of the kindest, loving, giving most compassionate ladies I have ever known, and funny, I can still hear her laugh. She always had a smile on her face and thats the way I want to remember her. She was an incredible mother, because I saw it through her daughters, Carolyn and Anne. i know their hearts are breaking, along with Bob and the rest of the family. May you find pease in knowing she no longer suffers. I pray God wraps his loving arms around your family and comforts you during this difficult time.
Love, Andy and Collette

Andy & Collette Cuellar - August 25, 2019 at 01:19 PM

DM

“ Carolyn and Bob I am so very sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a beautiful lady and it's truly awesome that you were able to take care of her during her time of need. I know you are going to miss her a lot. My thoughts and prayers are coming your way. Love you both. Debbie Nicholas McKee

Debbie Nicholas McKee - August 25, 2019 at 11:55 AM

WB

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Watts Bob - August 25, 2019 at 10:38 AM

WB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Watts Bob - August 25, 2019 at 10:29 AM

RS

“ *Ms Belle, one of my all time favorite ladies. She was so special in my life. Love her dearly. Sorry for your loss. Nothing like losing our mom's. Love and prayers to you girls and your family.*

Rita Stewart - August 25, 2019 at 10:14 AM

VC

“ *I didn't have the honor of meeting Belle but I do know Carolyn. My family and I believe she is the most sincere, caring, sweet person we've ever met. So I'm sure Belle was the same. I'm so sorry for your loss, Carolyn. Know that we are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.*

Valarie Cowden - August 25, 2019 at 09:50 AM

DT

“ *What a wonderful lady, that I had the pleasure to meet. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of need. Thinking of you guys!*

Doug Tooker - August 25, 2019 at 07:37 AM

SG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. You know that she was loved and that she loved. Memories are the link that will help to pull you through these times. Keep them sweet.

Stephen P Givens - August 25, 2019 at 07:19 AM

JC

“ She was a beautiful woman that i had the pleasure to attend a Cherokee Culture and Humanities Class with her and Carolyn. She was a delight and shared her memories and knowledge of Cherokee life. I was lucky enough to have had lunch/dinner at the place she, Carolyn and Bob were eating. Most enjoyable afternoon. She will be greatly missed by all. My condolences to Carolyn and her family.

Juanita Christian - August 24, 2019 at 11:55 PM