



Rudena Mae McPherson

March 17, 1941 - February 7, 2026

Rudena McPherson, a cherished and longtime resident of Muskogee, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on February 7, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on March 17, 1941, she lived a full life filled with love, dedication, and an open heart that welcomed everyone she met. On June 3, 1960, Rudena married the love of her life, Jim McPherson, beginning a partnership that spanned decades and became the cornerstone of her world.

Rudena poured her soul into her many years as an elementary teacher in the Muskogee area. She had a gift for seeing the potential in every child, patiently guiding them, sparking their curiosity, and filling her classrooms with warmth, laughter, and encouragement. To her students, she wasn't just a teacher—she was a mentor, a cheerleader, and often a second mother whose kindness they carried with them long after leaving her classroom.

A member of Boulevard Christian Church, Rudena's faith was the quiet, steady foundation of her life. She found joy in the fellowship, worship, and service there, living out her beliefs through acts of love and generosity every day.

What truly made Rudena shine was her generosity and the way she made people feel seen and loved. Her home was a haven—especially in the summer, when neighborhood kids knew they were always welcome to splash and play in her pool. Those carefree afternoons filled with giggles, cannonballs, and shared popsicles created memories that still warm hearts

today. For many years, she also shared her home and heart with her beloved Yorkies, whose energy and loyal companionship brought her endless joy. She delighted in opening her door and her heart to family, friends, furry companions, and anyone who needed a kind word or a listening ear.

Above all, Rudena's greatest treasure was her family.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jim McPherson; her parents, Rudolf and Edna Krausse; and her brother, Edwin.

She is survived by her three daughters, Kim and her husband Mark, Terri and her husband Daryl, and Shari McPherson and John Clark; her sister, Martha; her five grandchildren, Kali Anderson and her husband Jacob, Seth Brownell, Cade Brownell and his wife Leah, Meredith Bentley and her husband Tommy, and Elizabeth Davis and her husband Wade; her eight great-grandchildren; and many other family members, friends, and former students whose lives she touched so deeply.

In lieu of flowers, Rudena's family request memorial contributions to Muskogee Community Band, P.O. Box 2278, Muskogee, OK 74402.

A viewing will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 12PM-7PM with the family receiving friends from 5PM-7PM at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Muskogee, OK.

A celebration of Rudena's life will be 2PM, Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Greenhill Cemetery Pavilion in Muskogee, OK with Pastor Steve Moss officiating and Jay Huffer eulogizing. Casket bearers are Shaun Axton, Silas Johnson, Asher Johnson, Seth Brownell, Jacob Anderson and Cade Brownell. Honorary casket bearers are Jerry Huffer and John Clark.

The family of Rudena Mae McPherson has entrusted her care, service and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Muskogee, OK. 918-910-8883.

Online condolences may be left for the family at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N York
Muskogee, OK 74434

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 11. 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory (Muskogee)
1020 West Okmulgee Ave
Muskogee, OK 74401
(918) 910-8883

Visitation with Family to Greet Friends

FEB 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory (Muskogee)
1020 West Okmulgee Ave
Muskogee, OK 74401
(918) 910-8883

Celebration of Life

FEB 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Greenhill Cemetery
1500 N York
Muskogee, OK 74434

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Mrs. McPherson was a teacher of mine at Grant Foreman Elementary School 🦋☐



Kim Jackson Hammer - May 26 at 09:56 AM

CC

“ Cheryl Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Rudena McPherson



Cheryl Cunningham - February 13 at 05:38 PM

SM

Thank you.

Shari McPherson - February 14 at 09:30 PM

KS

“ Rudena (and Jim) were so good to me and my family. We were like fish out of water here in OK and she helped us navigate our way. I will always remember her fondly. Sending all my love to the girls and their families.

Karen Shaughnessy - February 12 at 05:34 PM

SM

Thanks Karen. You were a good friend of the family. Mom enjoyed visiting with you and appreciated the care you gave to my grandmother.

Shari McPherson - February 12 at 09:16 PM

HT

“Mrs. McPherson was my 5th grade teacher at Harris Jobe in 1998-1999. She was one of my all time favorite teachers and had a big influence on my life. I have many memories from her class: The year I had her for 5th grade we had a combined class of 4th and 5th grade together. It was a ploy of sorts to save our little school that was always being threatened of shut down due to low numbers, but it felt really fun and innovative! She managed it gracefully. She taught us all the states and capitals and we would play a fun, competitive game to see who knew the most. We did a Christmas project and Mr. McPherson cut wood in the shape of stockings and angels for each student. We painted them and wrote “Merry Christmas” in cursive on them. We visited the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. She prepared us for the 5th grade writing test by having us do practice writing prompts often. She gave personal feedback to every student. I remember sitting 1:1 with her at her desk going over my essays. She encouraged me very much! She even had me read a few of my essays to the class. She truly set me up for success at a young age by teaching me how to write a paper well. My grandmother lived in Country Club. I think they might have been friends, but I also remember going to swim at Mrs. McPherson’s a few times with my grandmother. She added me on Facebook a few years ago and she would often comment on my posts about my children and my own experiences as an educator now. I enjoyed reconnecting with her in that way. I was blessed to have her as a teacher and as a part of my life. They don’t make them like her anymore! One of a kind for sure.

Hailey Caywood Thomas - February 10 at 08:37 PM

SM

Thank you for sharing your thoughts. My mom enjoyed teaching and doing projects with her students

Shari McPherson - February 10 at 09:19 PM

JH

Mrs. McPherson was my 4th grade teacher at Irving the 70-71 school year. She was one of my very favorite teachers. I also enjoyed a friendship with her daughter Kim who is my age. Thinking of you Kim and praying for you and your family!

Judy Marsh HolyBee - February 11 at 08:21 PM

KB

Thank you Judy.

Kim Brownell - February 14 at 11:50 PM

KB

Thank you Judy. I have definitely felt all of the prayers coming my way.

Kim Brownell - February 14 at 11:51 PM

TS

“ *She was a wonderful teacher!! Many prayers!* ”



Thea Speer - February 09 at 07:22 PM

SM

Thank you. Mom loved teaching

Shari McPherson - February 10 at 10:38 AM