



Arvella L. Hemphill

February 15, 1926 - June 25, 2026

Arvella Lee Hemphill passed away on June 25, 2026, at the age of 100, surrounded by her family. She leaves behind four generations of family rooted in Oklahoma.

She was born on February 15, 1926, in Osage County to Paul and Bertie Flanagan. She spent her childhood in lease houses throughout the Tonkawa and Three Sands oil fields. Those years shaped her strong work ethic and appreciation for simple blessings. She graduated from Drumwright High School, Class of 1945, where she held the school record for Girls 100 yard dash for many years.

In 1952, she married Leslie Eugene Hemphill, and supported him as he served in World War II and the Korean War. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and hard work in northeastern Oklahoma. Arvella worked for Oral Roberts Ministries while the family lived in Oologah, and in 1962 they settled in Grove, OK, where she spent the rest of her life.

One of the most meaningful parts of Arvella and Gene's life together was operating Shady Rest Resort on Grand Lake, a property her family will keep in her memory for many years to come. Arvella welcomed families and fishermen with hospitality and made many lasting friendships. Arvella cared for the cabins and the grounds, keeping the property immaculately maintained. Many guests returned year after year because of the kindness they found in her.

Arvella's life was marked by a profound faith, expressed through her love of

gospel music and her involvement in her church. She found joy in playing keyboard instruments and was often moved by gospel songs like "Wonderful, Wonderful, Jesus Is to Me" and "Mansion Over the Hilltop." Her faith was a cornerstone of her existence, as reflected in her favorite scripture, Nahum 1:7, which speaks of the Lord as a stronghold in times of trouble.

Arvella was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie Eugene Hemphill, with whom she shared a lifetime of love and partnership.

Those who will cherish her memory include her daughter, Joy Bauer of Grove, OK, and her son, Joe Hemphill of Muskogee, OK, along with four granddaughters, Holly Bryson, Dana Hemphill, Ashley Westmoreland and Dala Davis, 13 great grandchildren, and 11 great-great grandchildren.

Arvella's legacy lives on in the family she loved, the friendships she formed, the flowers she planted and the faith that she lived every day.

Graveside services will be at 10am Monday, June 29, 2026, at Southwest City Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Southwest City Cemetery

Southwest City, OK 64863

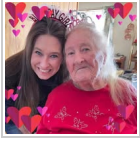
Upcoming Events

Graveside Service

JUN **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Southwest City Cemetery
Southwest City, OK 64863

Tribute Wall



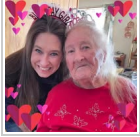
“ I’ve never lived a day without the constant love and influence of my Grandmother, she was my lifelong buddy, my unwavering support, and my greatest teacher. We shared countless birthdays, each one a celebration of our unique bond She never missed a single school performance or milestone moment in my life. Her presence was a constant, a comforting reminder that I was never alone in my journey.

Grandmother had a way with words that was refreshingly straightforward. She never shied away from sharing the truth, even when it was hard to hear. Her honesty, though sometimes difficult, was a gift that shaped my character. She believed in me long before I found the strength to believe in myself, and plainly told me when I needed to “use my brain”, instilling a sense of resilience that I carry with me every day.

While she may not have baked cookies or lavished me with praise like some grandparents do, she gifted me the tools to navigate this world. She taught me the importance of hard work and instilled a deep faith that has guided me through every challenge. Through her, I learned to lean on the Lord for guidance and discernment, making prayer an essential part of my life.

As I reflect on her remarkable legacy, I’m overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you, Grandmother, for your unwavering love, your strength, and your wisdom. You showed me how to forge a path filled with family and faith. You may be gone, but your spirit will forever live on in my heart alongside the lessons you've imparted.

Ashley Westmoreland - 56 minutes ago



“ 32 files added to the tribute wall



Ashley Westmoreland - 1 hour ago