



## Johnnie R. Hillis

November 1, 1940 - December 23, 2019

Johnnie Ruth (Casteel) Hillis, age 79, of Grove, stepped into the presence of her Lord and Savior on Monday, December 23, 2019.

Johnnie was born, November 1, 1940 in Stilwell Oklahoma to John Rufus and Etta Fern (Smith) Casteel. She accepted Christ as her Savior when she was just a child and her love for Him lasted her entire life. She graduated from Stilwell High School in 1958, and then went to Tulsa Business College for one year and then to Oklahoma Baptist University for a year. While there she worked at Federal National Bank in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Johnnie met her husband John LeRoy Hillis in July of 1962 on a blind date. It was love at first sight and they were married on February 15, 1963 at Trinity Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

John and Johnnie were members of Trinity for five years. They bought a home in East Tulsa and moved in 1966. They later joined Plainview Baptist Church where they served for more than 34 years. Johnnie taught Sunday School and a weekly ladies Bible study for more than 30 years. She established and managed the church library and served as the Associational Library Director for the Tulsa Baptist Association. For many years, she taught in Vacation Bible School, and also sang in the choir and served in any position needed. She also worked outside the home as the church secretary for many years.

John, Johnnie, and the girls enjoyed camping around various Oklahoma lakes until they found Grand Lake of Oklahoma. After many years of visiting Grand Lake, John and Johnnie began spending most weekends and summers in

Grove at their lake home. They moved to Grove in September of 2000, and joined Grove's First Baptist Church. Johnnie continued to serve as church librarian, Sunday School teacher, part time secretary, and served in church sewing clubs.

She had a love for sewing and quilting. Toward the end of her life, even when suffering from dementia for the last several years, she continued to sew, and that brought her much peace of mind.

She loved reading and studying God's Word for many hours each week. Her love for learning, especially about the Bible, was passed on to her girls, and their families. Together, she and John taught their daughters how to love and serve the Lord. She taught them how to be good mothers to their children because she was such a great mother.

Johnnie was preceded in death by her parents, John and Etta Casteel, and two sisters, Elaine Raleigh and JoAnn Kester.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, John of the home, her daughters, LeAnna Hall and her husband Mark of Comanche, OK; Terri Hillis of Grove, OK; Crissy Nelson and her husband Thomas of Grove, OK; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, as well as, two brothers, Ivan and Ronnie Casteel, and one sister, Linda Sue Hummingbird.

Visitation for family and friends will be from 3-5pm Monday, December 30 at Nichols-Stephens Funeral Service. Funeral services will be at 1pm Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at Grove's First Baptist Church. Interment at New Olympus Cemetery.

The family requests that donations in Johnnie's memory be made to Grove's First Baptist Church Library.

# Cemetery Details

## Olympus Cemterey

Grove, OK

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **30**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service  
10201 U.S. Highway 59  
Grove, OK 74344  
(918) 786-6761  
nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

## Funeral Service

DEC **31**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Grove's First Baptist Church  
501 E. 13th St  
Grove, OK 74344

# Tribute Wall



“ *Johnnie R. Hillis*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *John and Johnnie were the leaders of the Young Married department at Plainview when we joined the church. We became a part of a special group of close Christian friends. We shared lots of fun times floating the Illinois River; Halloween party when John came dressed as Johnnie and she dressed like John! On their way home they had to stop for gas, HE dressed as she got out and began putting gas in the car while SHE dressed as he sat in the car! Oh the looks, HE/she got! A New Year's Eve party when a group knocked on the door with bottles wrapped in paper bags, Johnnie told them they had the wrong party, we were a church group but they could leave their bottles outside and join us! None of them accepted her invitation! What a lady! What a dear friend! What a servant of the Lord that she loved! Our prayers are with John and the girls! May you feel God's presence and comfort! Larry and Brenda Stephens*

**Brenda Stephens** - December 31, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Johnnie R. Hillis.*



December 27, 2019 at 04:05 PM

AN

“ ANITA NOLAND purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Johnnie R. Hillis.



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**ANITA NOLAND** - December 27, 2019 at 04:02 PM

LH

“ My precious sister, Johnnie, is so very special for her example of a loving daughter to our parents; a precious sister who helped guide me through highschool and college at OBU; a great example of wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. I gained much spiritual strength from her knowledge of God's Word and her love for sharing it. She truly practiced her God given gift of teaching and writing. Some of her writings are entitled, "Chalk Bluff Elementary, The School Everyone Loved," "A Letter to Mother," and "My Mother, A Strong and Godly Woman." I miss her, but not for long. We'll be able to live WITH her in heaven FAR LONGER that we'll have to live without her here.

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**Linda Hummingbird** - December 26, 2019 at 11:57 PM

JB

“ There are more memories than we could write! But, to sum them all up it would suffice to say Aunt Johnnie and Uncle John have ALWAYS been an example to us of true, godly love not only in how they loved God but in their complete enjoyment of life. Being a Christian permeated Aunt Johnnie's everyday life. I will forever treasure the memories of family gatherings and the blessings of our family knowing Christ. Aunt Johnnie's wit was infectious and made us happy! Thank God for knowing her! Love to all of you, John and Mona

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**John and Mona Brewer** - December 26, 2019 at 02:59 PM

KC

“ Teri and Crissy and LeAnna I am so sorry for your loss. She got the best Christmas gift ever and that is she is with our Father In Heaven. Kimberly Clark

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**Kimberly Clark** - December 25, 2019 at 10:45 PM