



Vida R. Howard

March 19, 1963 - October 27, 2017

Vida Rene Howard, 54, passed this life on Friday, October 27, 2017, at her daughter's home in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, leaving a legacy of compassion, love and joy.

Born March 19, 1963, Vida was a lover of birds, travel and beautiful things. She loved family vacations to the beaches at Destin, Florida. Her eyes lit up at the mention of Destin. In another life, she just might have been a beachcomber. She had a keen eye for art and design, creating beautiful flower arrangements, home décor and crafts.

A giver of time and wisdom, Vida was the glue that bound her family through every crisis and the driving force behind so many successes. She hosted many holiday gatherings with grace, good humor and joyous hospitality. Vida was a helper of people. She would give advice even if you didn't want to hear it, but if she did, you most likely needed it. She seemed to find people when they needed her most.

Vida loved her husband Rick with her whole heart. Their 36-year marriage was full of love, trials, sadness, and triumphs – as well as three beautiful, compassionate children and six energetic, life-giving grandchildren. She supported her husband's work and entrepreneurial activities, serving as a true partner in their marriage and work. Vida was an entrepreneur herself, co-

owner of Grand Lake Glass and once opening a fudge shop in downtown Grove that delighted many a sweet tooth.

Nothing gave her more joy than her grandchildren – celebrating their achievements and consoling their hurts. They filled her life with laughter, love and silliness. Vida encouraged her grandchildren every day to follow their dreams and to know that they could be whatever they wanted to be. Their young lives already are imprinted with her deeply held faith in God and her values of honesty, compassion, humor, and the importance of learning.

Vida was known for her sassy wit, deeply compassionate heart, and quick mind. She graduated from Grove High School in 1981 and earned her A.A. degree from NEO A&M College. To family and friends, she was a constant source of information on just about anything, from backyard birds to flowers.

Service to her beloved Grove community was important to Vida. After treatment for her first bout with cancer, she joined Grove Rotary in February 2016, because it was dedicated to making her hometown better, a cause near and dear to her heart. Indeed, in Vida's first year in Rotary, she was named the "Rotarian Newcomer of the Year," serving on such committees as Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Fellowship, Adopt-a-Street, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and the LobsterFest Silent Auction, among others.

Vida took great delight in her "posse" of women friends, with whom she shared laughs, travel, wisecracks, love, support, and awesome "witches" outings on Halloween. She did not suffer fools gladly, having perfected the "eye roll" with exquisite expression.

We rejoice in the fact that her pain is over, and cancer no longer holds her. She is with the Lord today and was greeted by Him and her family and friends who have already passed on.

Vida was preceded in death by grandparents Jess and Grace Hale of Zena and Haley Sanders of Grove.

A lifelong member of the Grove community, Vida is survived by her husband, Rick Howard, of Grove; parents Larry and Darlene Hale Sanders, Grove; sister Amy (husband Carl) Jones of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; grandmother Billie Carey Sanders of Grove; mother-in-law Anne Howard of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania; father-in-law Dick Howard of Woodgate, N.Y.; and children Devin (wife Meghan) Howard of Hartford, South Dakota, Megan (husband Mike) Cook of Broken Arrow, and Paige (husband Matt) Yarborough of Grove.

She leaves behind her beloved grandchildren, Scott and Riley Howard, Cooper and Hudson Cook, and Paisley and Colter Yarborough. She also is survived by niece Olivia Jones of Siloam Springs and nephew Jerek (wife Cassie) Jones of Claremore, Oklahoma. Other survivors include many aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

Services for Vida will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Grand Lake Baptist Church, 1531 98th St. NW in Grove. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 1, from 6 – 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home, 9611 US Hwy 59 in Grove. Graveside services will be held immediately after the funeral at Olympus Cemetery North in Grove.

Donations in Vida's memory may be sent to the Rotary Wheelchair Program, PO Box 452286, Grove, OK 74345; Checks payable to: American Wheelchair Mission.

Cemetery Details

Olympus Cemterey

Grove, OK

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

NOV 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

Grand Lake Baptist Church
1531 98th St NW
Grove, OK 74344
(918) 801-2047

Tribute Wall



“ *Vida R. Howard*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Cindy Demory lit a candle in memory of Vida R. Howard*



Cindy Demory - October 31, 2017 at 01:04 AM



“ *Rebecca (Becky) Sherman lit a candle in memory of Vida R. Howard*



Rebecca (Becky) Sherman - October 31, 2017 at 12:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vida R. Howard.*



October 30, 2017 at 10:52 PM

LH

“ How I will miss our "girl trips". You were a true inspiration to me of what a loving wife, mother and grandmother should be. You lit up the world around you. I am a betterment person for knowing you.

Lisa Houck.

Lisa Houck - October 30, 2017 at 08:33 PM

BC

“ Barbara Crewell lit a candle in memory of Vida R. Howard



Barbara Crewell - October 30, 2017 at 06:34 PM

S(

“ Susan Farrar (O'Neal) lit a candle in memory of Vida R. Howard



Susan Farrar (O'Neal) - October 30, 2017 at 06:09 PM

JJ

We will all miss Vida's bright smile and beautiful presence!! Love and prayers to Rick and the entire family 🙏🌹

Jana Jae - November 02, 2017 at 09:37 AM

S(

“ Rick,
I am so terribly saddened to hear about Vida. I didn't know she was sick. My heart is breaking for you and your family. Praying for all of you.

Susie Farrar (O'Neal)

Susan Farrar (O'Neal) - October 30, 2017 at 06:08 PM

TS

“ *the AMMI staff purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Vida R. Howard.*



the AMMI staff - October 30, 2017 at 05:50 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the
family of Vida R. Howard.*



October 30, 2017 at 05:31 PM

DH

“ *Dana M Hellings and Laura L Hellings purchased
the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vida R.
Howard.*



Dana M Hellings and Laura L Hellings - October 30, 2017 at
05:29 PM

VS

“ Vicki A Smith lit a candle in memory of Vida R. Howard



Vicki A Smith - October 30, 2017 at 05:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Vida R. Howard.



October 30, 2017 at 04:39 PM

BH

“ Family and friends of Vida have suffered a huge loss. Prayers and condolences are coming your way. Vida is a beautiful wonderful woman; may she rest in peace.

Barbara Harrison - October 30, 2017 at 04:32 PM

PK

Rick & family,
I wish I would have been able to get to know you better, but being neighbors & waving when driving by, Vida had a smile & friendliness about her. I understand the heartbreak when you loose the love of your life. May God grant you peace as only he can give.

Peggy Kamphaus - October 30, 2017 at 07:44 PM



“ *Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vida R. Howard.*



October 30, 2017 at 04:04 PM



“ *My memories of Vida are going to be similar to what everyone else says: An intelligent, talented, strong, upbeat, creative, gracious, generous, witty, wise woman with a huge heart for her family and friends. She leaves behind a void in many lives. I'm sure she would love it if we could all fill that void with kindness.*

Susan Moritz - October 30, 2017 at 03:49 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Vida R. Howard.*



October 30, 2017 at 02:11 PM



“ *Denise lit a candle in memory of Vida R. Howard*



Denise - October 30, 2017 at 01:33 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Vida R. Howard.*



October 30, 2017 at 11:57 AM