



## Betty Jean Epperley

September 12, 1932 - December 27, 2024

Betty Jean (Nickels) Epperley passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 27, 2024, at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, at the age of 92 years.

Betty was born on September 12, 1932, to Oscar Nickels and Cora (Turner) Nickels at Matoy, Oklahoma. After graduating from Matoy High School as valedictorian in 1949, she obtained a B.S. with honors from Southeastern State College in 1952. From 1952 to 1956, Betty worked as a computer performing oil exploration calculations for Shell Oil Company in Oklahoma City – one of her favorite jobs.

Betty married her childhood sweetheart, Charles Maurice Epperley, on June 26, 1954. When Charles returned in 1956 from army service in Germany, Betty and he taught for two years in Gallup, New Mexico before moving to Oklahoma City to start their family.

Betty taught math and business at Southeast High School in Oklahoma City, and Western Oaks Junior High and Mayfield Junior High in the Putnam City school district before retiring to Willow Springs at Lake Texoma in 1988. Betty and Charles excelled as retirees by living each day to the fullest, feeding the masses from their fishing excursions and playing games with friends and family. They moved to Durant, Oklahoma in 2005.

She attended Presbyterian church at Matoy; Crown Heights, Western Hills, Putnam City and Council Road Baptist Churches in Oklahoma City; and Streetman Road Baptist Church in Mead, Oklahoma.

Betty was known throughout her life for her kindness, attention, and caring for others, including single-handedly keeping Hallmark cards in business. She was a superb organizer, as was evident from her many notes on any handy sheets of paper. An avid sports fan, she loved OU Sooner football, basketball, and softball, OKC Thunder basketball, and watching friends and family play sports of all kinds. She was an excellent cook - though she did not think so – and will be remembered for her wonderful fried chicken, beef stew, and chocolate ice box pie, among other family favorites. Betty also was a lifelong Democrat.

She shared with her Turner cousins the struggles of farm life during the Depression. However, she had a childlike optimism facing the promise of each new day. Betty's luck at sweepstakes, contests, and slots is legendary. Her lucky kids got the greatest gift of all - the rich certainty of unconditional love.

Betty is survived by her daughter Linda Epperley of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, son Gary Epperley and son-in-law Marcus Phelps-Munson of San Jose, California, brother Boyd of Mead, brother Ron and wife Teri Nickels of Durant, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Charles preceded her in death in 2015. Also preceding her in death were her beloved parents, sister Delena (Nickels) Monroe, and brother Ray Nickels.

Services are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/FH7D64QTJ2MRMQS5>

# Cemetery Details

## Gethsemane Cemetery

Cemetery Rd  
Caddo, OK 74729

# Previous Events

## Family Visitation

JAN 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

## Funeral Service

JAN 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Betty Jean Epperley*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - January 02, 2025 at 03:31 PM

AB

“ *Betty and Charles were great friends. We all attended Streetman Road Church. What a joy to have known them both. Linda, Gary we met a long time ago. They were so proud of you both. I'm just sorry I didn't know of her passing. Love and hugs, Ann and Dan Baskin*

**Ann Baskin** - January 06, 2025 at 02:25 PM

DW

“ *I was in Mrs. Epperley's math class at Mayfield. She put up with a lot of obnoxious 8th graders but I fondly remember her and that class, to this day, because of the life skills she taught us. RIP.*

**Diane Holladay Western** - January 02, 2025 at 12:25 PM

BS

“ *Bill and Leslie Simpson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Jean Epperley.*



**Bill and Leslie Simpson** - December 31, 2024 at 01:31 PM

BS

“ Bill and Leslie Simpson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jean Epperley.

Bill and Leslie Simpson - December 31, 2024 at 01:31 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Betty Jean Epperley.



December 31, 2024 at 11:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Betty Jean Epperley.

December 31, 2024 at 11:35 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Jean Epperley.



December 31, 2024 at 11:06 AM

BM

“ I didn't get too see you very much in your final years, but I always remember all the love and funny times we always had at family get togethers. I will miss you aunt Betty. You have gained your angel wings, fly high and God speed. Tell all the family members that have gone home, that one day we will all be together again.



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**Brian and Sheila Monroe** - December 31, 2024 at 06:06 AM

RN

“ 5 files added to the album Betty's Family



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**Ron Nickels** - December 30, 2024 at 09:17 AM

RN

“ Our family will miss our sister Betty and her very caring concern for all family members as well as friends. She always contacted those who were suffering with illness or the loss of a loved one to try to comfort them. She is at rest now with her husband, Charles who she loved so dearly. I'm sure she is already busy in heaven organizing her place and making sure everything is properly labeled. We love you Betty!

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**Ron Nickels** - December 30, 2024 at 08:44 AM

TF

“ The Ron and Teri Nickels Family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Betty Jean Epperley.



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**The Ron and Teri Nickels Family** - December 30, 2024 at 08:28 AM