



## Melinda Faye Gerlach

April 27, 1954 - May 1, 2026

Melinda Faye Gerlach age 72, of Caddo, Oklahoma passed away on May 1, 2026, in Denison, Texas. Melinda was born on April 27, 1954, in Memphis, Texas to parents Jimmy Wayne and Charles Irene (Hammonds) Gerlach. Melinda moved with her family to Bryan County when she was a baby. She graduated from Caddo High School, Class of "72".

Melinda loved camping, fishing, gardening, family time, road trips, and politics (except for Trump). She was always taking in all the struggling kids as her own and helping them through trying times. At the top of the list for her other kids would definitely be Tara Jo Payne, Ashley Anderson, Justin Stephens and all the other pallbearers. She loved them same way and always raised them as her own. She worked at family-owned G&W Body Works for 35 plus years from the age of 17 as the secretary and treasurer until they sold. Melinda then worked in the bakery at Wal-Mart, cafeteria at SOSU for a bit, bought snake root for awhile at the shop, and threw newspapers for the Durant Daily Democrat. Although she endured many health struggles and surgeries, she was a fighter with her strength and courage and with the love and support of her loved ones.

Melinda is preceded in death by her parents Jimmy Wayne and Charles Irene Gerlach; and brother Alvis Wayne Gerlach.

Family left behind to continue Melinda's legacy are her daughter Chasity Gerlach of Caddo, OK granddaughter Kaitlyn Looney of Caddo, OK; nephew Chris Gerlach and wife Brooke of Durant, OK; niece Carley Gerlach of Caddo, OK; chosen daughters Tara Payne and husband T.J. of Norman, OK and Ashley Anderson of Durant, OK and numerous extended family and very dear friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Brown's Durant Funeral Service Chapel. Bro. Anthony Williams will officiate. Interment will follow on Melinda's family land at Pleasant Hill. Pallbearers will be Jeremy Sheffield, Nickey Meade, Chris Gerlach, Cole Lambert, Jeremy Swindell, and Casey Garrett. The family will receive friends at the Funeral Home on Friday evening from 6-8 PM.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral and Cremation Service.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/3M9DPNTC4X84X84C>

# Cemetery Details

## Family Land

Caddo, OK 74729

# Previous Events

## Family and Friends Visitation

MAY 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
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# Tribute Wall



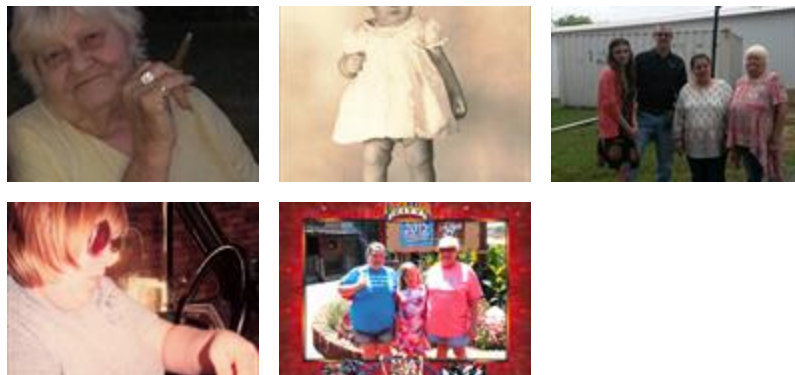
“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Melinda Faye Gerlach*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - May 07 at 04:11 PM



“ *119 files added to the album Gallery of Pictures*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - May 07 at 04:15 PM

AS

“ *She taught me a lot but most importantly she taught me all about forgiveness something my own mom didn't do. I will always hold a very special place in my heart for u Melinda may ur light never be dimmed shine bright like the star that u are and continue to guide us until we see u again*

**Amanda Stepp** - May 04 at 12:42 PM

KM

“ Wonderful memories of Melinda. We had some fun and wild times. Remember skipping school, going to lake house taking boat out and spending the day out on lake. I spent more time at her house than mine. Melinda probably never told you we got 3 licks our Junior year in HS for eating corn nuts in class. Lol. Melinda you are not suffering any more. I always thought of you often even tho we didn't stay in touch. Love you girl!!

Kathy Chambers- Class mate - May 03 at 06:26 PM

RT

Melinda and Wayne were my first friends when we moved to Caddo. We were 5 and 6 years old. There were a lot of kids that practically grew up in their home. No more suffering my friend.

Robin Tidwell - May 05 at 02:43 PM

TH

“ Melinda you gave it one hell of a run at it and i will say you have been a tough one. So with that being said it's time for you to go rest high on that mountain, from the first time I meet you till the last time I seen you you never changed. You have touched so many lives and you never knew it. I know i have told you time and time of the thanks for helping and raising them Boydstun kids. I know we didnt see eye to eye on alot of things but you know what it didnt matter. Love you and you will be missed by many so spread them wings you have grown and fly high as you have ever been. 🥹💔



Totsie Hampton - May 03 at 02:17 PM

MB

“ *Melody Baker lit a candle in memory of  
Melinda Faye Gerlach*



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**Melody Baker** - May 03 at 02:10 PM