



Shirley Beth McClendon

January 13, 1941 - March 28, 2026

Shirley Beth McClendon, 85, of Kingston, Oklahoma passed away on March 28, 2026, in Durant, Oklahoma. She was born on January 13, 1941, in Wilson, Oklahoma to Henry Whitten Keeling and Mrytle (Isham) Keeling.

Shirley attended and graduated from Wilson High School. She married the love of her life, Bobby Ronald McClendon, on August 22, 1959, in Wilson, Oklahoma. She was an accomplished Certified Ophthalmic Medical Assistant and the doctors she worked with had a high regard for her talents. She was associated with the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness and helped write several articles for publication. Shirley and Bobby attended church at the First Methodist Church in Ardmore, OK. Shirley had a contagious smile and a gift for making others feel special. Her warmth and compassion were felt by everyone in her presence. She adored her husband and lived a very full life being by his side in all their travels and adventures. She never had children of her own but considered all her nieces and nephews her children. She took pleasure in caring for her sweet dogs through the years and loved spoiling them. She had many dear friends and loved spending time with them. She was especially close to Bob and Kenetta Daws and enjoyed being with Kenetta's mom, Pat Akers. They had a very special friendship. We are deeply saddened by Aunt Shirley's passing but will always carry her in our hearts!

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband Bobby McClendon; parents; Henry and Mrytle Keeling, sisters; Bernice Gilbert, Jean Palmer, and Millie Stallcup, niece; Mary Prentice, and nephews; Mike Palmer and Mac Stallcup Jr.

She is survived by her niece; Lee McGinty and spouse Art McGinty (deceased) of Granbury, Texas, niece; Elaine Johnsen and spouse George Johnsen of Humble, Texas, niece; Sue Green and spouse Larry Green (deceased) of Miramar Beach, Florida, niece; Evelyn Cope and spouse Gary Cope (deceased) of Colleyville, Texas, nephew; Mark Palmer and spouse Debbie Palmer of Celina, Texas, nephew; George Palmer and spouse Martha Palmer of St. Petersburg, Florida, and niece; Debbie Robertson and spouse Charles Robertson of Little Rock, Arkansas.

A celebration of Shirley's life will be held at a later date and announced by the family.

Make me an Angel

Oh, please God make me an Angel

I've done my best to find my way

So, please God make me an Angel

I want to help others every day

Oh, please God make me an Angel

I've always wanted to be by your side

So, please God make me an Angel

It's in your grace I want to abide

Oh, please God make me an Angel

In your love I want to be

So, please God make me an Angel

I want to help people to love you like me.

Words by Shirley McClendon

Tribute Wall

KD

“ Shirley was like another mom to me
We had gotten really close we have so many great memories
Shirley thought of me and my husband Robert Daws as her kids she
never had
Life with Shirley and my mom Pat Akers was some of the best I
have ever seen
There Birthday was the very same day
They laughed and talked about what they were going to do
They loved playing Bingo together and talking about their childhood
memories
I will miss you so much Shirley
I love you now and always
You are my special Angel

Kenetta Daws - April 15 at 07:01 PM

GP

“ Aunt Shirley was always happy to see you or happy to hear your
voice on her birthday. I felt closest her her and Uncle Bobby when
they lived in Hawaii and I was stationed on Oahu. It was real nice to
have family there. They invited me to their home often and we had a
great time. But as Elaine posted, Gran and her sisters and Uncle
Bobby are united in Christ. Love, Martha and George Palmer

George Palmer - April 15 at 05:56 PM

EJ

“ Our Aunt Shirley was a wonderful person and she will be
remembered forever. We take comfort in knowing she has so many
who will greet her in Heaven.
Rest in peace. ❤️
George and Elaine Johnsen

Elainye Johnsen - April 13 at 09:18 AM