



## Terry and Virginia Ashby

June 2, 2024

Terry and Virginia Ashby, aged 53 and 54, were called home together on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024. Terry was born in Talihina, Oklahoma on December 1st, 1970 to Neal Ashby and Freda Colbert. Virginia was born in Gainesville, Texas on September 12th 1969 to Jose & Rosa Mendez.

Terry graduated from Durant High School with the class of 1989 where he played baseball and basketball before attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University on a basketball scholarship. He graduated with SOSU class of 1993 with a Bachelors in Science and Physical Education and received his Masters of Education from Texas Women's University with the class of 2003. Terry taught, mentored and coached in the Texas education system for 20 years before endeavoring to a role with Choctaw Nation in 2014. Terry's most recent role with Choctaw Nation was that of Senior Manager of Operational Excellence Training. Terry enjoyed and had an incredible passion for Choctaw culture and traditions. Through his life he enjoyed hobbies including archery and hunting.

Virginia graduated from Gainesville High School with the class of 1988. She was employed with Gainesville ISD for over 20 years before becoming an impactful employee at Abigail's Arms assisting families in need prior to employment with Chickasaw Nation in 2019, eventually taking a role as a Benefits Specialist, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Virginia most loved time

spent with her family, morning coffees catching sunrises, finding “sweet” deals at thrift stores and gardening.

Terry and Virgenia met working together at Gainesville Jr High and began dating in 2011 and married on November 14th, 2020. After some time as Gainesville residents, they found home in the Oklahoma country between Ardmore and Madill, where there you could always count on a welcoming hug, making new friends from the strays they'd take in, a hot cup of coffee and likely some food for the road. The Ashby home was the place of coming together for all things big or small. Together they lived a life led by love, compassion, kindness and a grand emphasis on family. They also enjoyed thrifting together, attending pow wows and late nights watching USA Network.

Terry and Virgenia are survived by their children Geoffrey Ashby (Amber Mays), Kirsten (Ashby) Harrison, Grady Harrison, Jose Garcia, Cecilia Garcia, Carlos Garcia, Melany Oropeza, Jazmyn Conejo, Esau Pedroza, Carlos Munoz, and Kailyn Gutierrez, and grandchildren, Kaydence Pedroza, Hatcher Harrison, Everly Edwards, River Ashby, Porter Harrison, Otto Harrison, Olivia Carpentier, Adrian Munoz, Leilani Munoz and baby Munoz expected in August.

Memorial services to celebrate Terry and Virgenia's lives will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at Victory Life Church in Durant. Officiants will be Pastors Jesse Pacheco, Dennis Stephens, and Waylon Tom. Honorary pallbearers will be the Yellow Hill Gourd Society, Chris Ashby, Chad John, Travis Davis, Anthony Martinez, Roland Branton, Paul Mendez, Rafael Garcia, Carlos Garcia, Esau Pedroza, Robert Robledo, Luis Villalobos, Noe Robledo, and Carlos Munoz.

Terry and Virgenia's family will receive friends on Friday, June 14th, from 6-8 PM at Brown's Funeral Home in Durant.

\*\*In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in memory of Terry and Virginia to Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center P.O. Box 1221 Gainesville, TX 76241 or Noah's Ark Animal Shelter 2501 N. Weaver St. Gainesville, TX 76241.

Ruth 1:16 "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay"

"Chi pisa la chike"- "Until we meet again"

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.brownsfuneralservice.com](http://www.brownsfuneralservice.com).

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/HLS3F8NNHY5K2F46>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUN **14.** 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/>

## Celebration of Life Service

JUN **15.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Victory Life Church  
3412 University Blvd.  
Durant, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - June 13, 2024 at 11:59 AM

CP

*My heart was broken when we heard of your lost. Terry was a loving man of God. He loved his wife and family. My condolences the family. May God comfort you in the difficult time. Thank God for allowing so many people to be touched by their love.*  
*Darnell & Cassandra Poteat*

**Cassandra Poteat** - June 21, 2024 at 01:46 PM

CP

*Praying*

**Cassandra Poteat** - June 21, 2024 at 01:47 PM

MD

*I just learned about Terry And Virginia, and my heart is totally broken. Terry was such an influence to me in my sculpting career, but also he was a good man. I know that many people in Oklahoma will miss him and I pray for his children and grandchildren. My sincerest condolences, Margaret Drake.*

**Margaret M Drake** - June 24, 2024 at 03:03 PM

CM

“ Colleen M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.

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**Colleen M.** - June 19, 2024 at 12:19 PM

JS

“ To my bonus parents  
Over the years the love between us grew and grew . Y'all accepted my kids as your grandchildren. My heart will never be the same without you guys . Thank you for everything. Please keep your loving arms around us until we meet again .  
Forever with Love  
Jaylynn ,Zenny , Lani ❤️



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**Jaylynn Sanders** - June 17, 2024 at 04:33 PM

“ I first met Terry Ashby when I was 15 years old. He was student-teaching under Coach Roland Branton as basketball coach at Fort Towson High. I was a kid obsessed with basketball and passionate about all things Choctaw. Ashby stayed in Soper and I lived in Unger so he would give me a ride home after practice every night. On our trips home after practice we talked about basketball, Choctaw legends, traditions, and life. He became a friend, a teacher, a mentor, and that positive male role model that I needed. He was like an older brother teaching me all the things I needed to know to navigate my teenage years. He would come over to my house and play basketball. I'd meet him at the Soper basketball courts to play one on one. After he left Fort Towson, he'd just stop by my house and we'd play ball and talk. He could see I was really struggling with my shooting technique. One day, he took the time to show me how to shoot. I practiced what he showed me over and over and over. And by the next season he had fixed my shot and I became a much better player. He didn't have to do that. He was no longer receiving class credits, he wasn't getting paid to be my private coach. He just wanted to help. He wanted to teach, he wanted to mentor. He changed my life. He didn't just change my shot or change my basketball career. He gave me confidence. And that changed my life. Ten years later I showed my little brother how to shoot a basketball exactly the way Ashby showed me. 20 years after that I showed my children how to shoot a basketball exactly the way Ashby showed me. When I tell stories to my kids about Choctaw culture, traditions, and legends, I tell them what Ashby told me. I spoke to Ashby about work and life the Thursday before he passed. Just as he had done when I was 15, he gave me invaluable guidance and lessons on how to move forward. I was still going to Ashby for guidance 30 years after we first met. I've since passed on his life lessons to others. The things that Ashby has taught me and others lives on. His wisdom, his knowledge, his courage, his generosity has all been passed down to my family and countless others. This means that although he's not with us today, he lives on. Through me, through my family, through my kids and through many others....he lives on. And I can only guess how many people he's

*impacted and how his words and teachings will be passed on to others. He lives on. He may not be here, but he lives on through others. I'm just happy and grateful to know him.*

*Jacob Keyes & Family*

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**Jacob Keyes** - June 14, 2024 at 08:13 PM

GF

“ *I am very grateful that I met Terry. He always made time to help me better understand our culture and support our people.* ”



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**Griffin Family** - June 14, 2024 at 06:30 PM

MF

“ *Michelle Moore and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.* ”



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**Michelle Moore and Family** - June 14, 2024 at 12:52 PM

MF

“ *Michelle Moore and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.* ”

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**Michelle Moore and Family** - June 14, 2024 at 12:52 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.



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June 13, 2024 at 04:35 PM



“ 4Ward Land Surveying planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.

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**4Ward Land Surveying** - June 13, 2024 at 04:35 PM



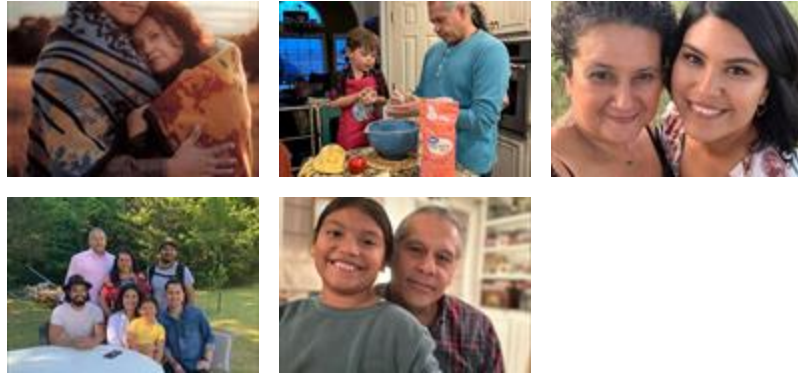
“ On behalf of the Indigenous Institute of the Americas, Gregory and Cathy Gomez, Tanya Bond, Annette Anderson and Constance Hargis, we thank you and honor you for all you did for our organization. This is our link to photos we hope to share with friends or family including photos by Ernest Gonzales. [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19QPRwkXJHFfPMTEyau\\_UYN1r8iGQMS1k?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19QPRwkXJHFfPMTEyau_UYN1r8iGQMS1k?usp=sharing)

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**Annette Anderson** - June 13, 2024 at 04:10 PM



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



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**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - June 13, 2024 at 12:35 PM



“ From your soccer family *DKSC Hernandez* purchased the *Pink Tribute Spray* for the family of *Terry and Virginia Ashby*.



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**From your soccer family DKSC Hernandez** - June 12, 2024 at 03:18 PM



“ *April Cook* lit a candle in memory of *Terry and Virginia Ashby*



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**April Cook** - June 10, 2024 at 12:00 PM

MM

“ I met Terry many years ago as an educator with Denton ISD. His heart for education, pride in his heritage, and kind spirit was clearly evident and was the catalyst for a true friendship. I called him my buddy but he was truly a dear friend and brother to me. He always looked out for me and was there during the the major events of my life. He took pride in making sure the gentleman that I was dating and eventually married met his approval!

Terry always spoke of his sweet mother, wife, children and elders with love and respect. I will always remember the stories and encouragement he shared on a daily basis. I got to know Virginia through conversations with Terry when they began dating. Virginia was lovely inside and out. I am glad I got to meet her when they came down for my son's graduation.

After moving back to Oklahoma, Terry maintained contact with our family and made time for my son and also invited him to dance with him at a powwow after my husband passed away. He drove to Texas every year to visit with our homeschoolers to share his Choctaw heritage. During his last visit in October, he told the kids to decide what they wanted to be known for. He then challenged them to choose one word and then to determine to live that every day. Terry lived by that principle every day. Terry was a loyal friend and brother to me. He will be truly missed.

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**Michelle Moore** - June 10, 2024 at 11:54 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.



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June 09, 2024 at 08:26 PM

YF

“ York Eye Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.

York Eye Family - June 09, 2024 at 08:26 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.



June 09, 2024 at 07:47 AM

AA

“ AAA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.

AAA - June 09, 2024 at 07:47 AM

JS

“ I met Terry many years ago, at an event hosted at AAFES office in DFW, where I was talking about Native American music and storytelling. He was just attending, but his presence was felt.

After that time, Terry and I gourd danced and straight danced many times. His dancing was actually how I met Virginia, because my dad made cedar boxes for gourd dancers, and Virginia wanted to get one for Terry as a surprise gift. Having already known Terry at this time, made being part of the gift giving much more meaningful.

Terry recently reached out wanting another box, but my dad passed this last fall. His caring and consideration was felt even through text messages. That is what I will always remember about him. Such a considerate and true friend.

He was an incredible person, and I will certainly miss him. The world has lost a great man.

*alamihe-weni ni, ni-mata na. wiyakatwi vii* ☐

*šawe-lenta-kwesiweni ni mo-Ōkičiwani vii*

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**James Yellow Hawk Snow** - June 09, 2024 at 04:03 AM

MK

“ Michael Kersten purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.



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**Michael Kersten** - June 09, 2024 at 12:28 AM

MK

“ Michael Kersten planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.

Michael Kersten - June 09, 2024 at 12:28 AM

SE

“ Terry always had a smile and a story, he always stopped to help anyone who needed help especially the Choctaw elders. I saw a lot of people working from the Rotunda on the 4th floor. He was kind and compassionate he cared about people. My condolences to their families.

sabrina everidge - June 08, 2024 at 12:48 AM

AT

“ Angela Threadgill lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



Angela Threadgill - June 07, 2024 at 09:35 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.



June 07, 2024 at 07:32 PM

JS

“ James and Pan Sant planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.

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**James and Pan Sant** - June 07, 2024 at 07:32 PM

JP

“ Jeannie J Percell lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



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**Jeannie J Percell** - June 07, 2024 at 07:08 PM

CB

“ I had just met Terry in 2020 at a traditional ceremony held that summer. When we were first introduced it felt like we knew each other for my whole life. He also accepted me as his niece as we do in native ways because him and my dad considered each other brothers. My dad has known Terry for a while as he was interested in the ceremonies we do every summer. After that we attended his wedding and met his lovely wife Virginia. He never failed to make me and my sister feel like family and always made us laugh in some form or fashion. Whether it was with a joke or playing around like in the photo. He also always told me he was proud of the woman I was becoming especially with my new journey or motherhood. He was very excited to be apart of my son’s life although he wasn’t able to meet him before he passed. He asked me the week before about my due date again and just was so excited to meet him. I just know that he’s going to watch over us and dance in his regalia to pray over all of us. I am so thankful to have known him and his wife in the short time I did. Each moment was a blessing and he had many teachings and things he shared with me. 💕🙏 Chi Pisa La Chike Moshi

“Until I see you again Uncle”



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**Ceremony Brown** - June 07, 2024 at 06:29 PM

SB

“ I was Terry's trainer at the WinStar call center. He was so funny, caring, and personable. He also so proud of his a d Virginia's grandchildren. He also loved to pick on me because I have red hair. My heart is broken at the loss of him and Virginia. May God provide peace and comfort to all.



Sheril Barthold - June 07, 2024 at 01:22 PM

KC

“ I will never forget the first time I met Terry. I had just accepted a new role in Choctaw Nation and was terrified of public speaking. I took a class offered through Learning and Development, and he spent time with me helping me to over come my fear. A few years later I had the privilege of working a long side Terry in Operational Excellence. I thought so much of him. My heart is broken to hear of his passing. Terry, thank you for all you taught me...and know that you will be dearly missed. PS. Terry, our last conversation from a couple of months ago means more to me than you could ever know. See you on the other side.



Kasie Cody - June 07, 2024 at 11:49 AM

AF

“ Anthony Martinez & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Terry and Virgenia Ashby.



Anthony Martinez & Family - June 07, 2024 at 11:27 AM

JO

“ Jennifer and Alissa Oldaker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.



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**Jennifer and Alissa Oldaker** - June 07, 2024 at 11:22 AM

SW

“ Semiah & Aleacia Frazier Walker lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



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**Semiah & Aleacia Frazier Walker** - June 07, 2024 at 10:54 AM

JS

“ Jed H Stockton lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



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**Jed H Stockton** - June 07, 2024 at 10:36 AM

BW

“ Barbara Webb lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



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**Barbara Webb** - June 07, 2024 at 08:58 AM

EP

“ Erica And James Phillips lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



Erica and James Phillips - June 07, 2024 at 08:16 AM

EP

*These two will be greatly missed! My prayers and thoughts go out to their families. God bless*

Erica and James Phillips - June 07, 2024 at 08:20 AM

LD

“ Lori Davis lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



Lori Davis - June 07, 2024 at 08:15 AM

JT

“ Jason Thomas lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



Jason Thomas - June 07, 2024 at 07:05 AM

JB

“ Terry was a dear friend, one of my best friends. He was an amazing friend at that. I got to meet Virginia twice and she was wonderful. They touched everyone they met. I spoke to Terry on Friday and I will remain forever grateful that I got to tell him I loved him one last time. My heart goes out to their children, grandchildren, and Terry’s mom, whom he adored and spoke of often. I will forever remember him as a man that loves his family, friend’s, and animals deeply. Rest in Heaven my friends.



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**Jill Betts** - June 06, 2024 at 07:20 PM

 Brandy Fields

“ Brandy Fields lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



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**Brandy Fields** - June 06, 2024 at 12:51 PM

CF

“ Clint Ford lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



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**Clint Ford** - June 06, 2024 at 11:01 AM

JJ

“ *Janita Jeffreys lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby*



Janita Jeffreys - June 06, 2024 at 10:52 AM

TD

“ *Tina Dreger purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.*



Tina Dreger - June 05, 2024 at 09:51 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.*



June 05, 2024 at 07:54 PM

CM

“ *Connie Colbert Miskell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Terry and Virginia Ashby.*

Connie Colbert Miskell - June 05, 2024 at 07:54 PM

FF

“ *Faithlyn Seawright and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.*



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**Faithlyn Seawright and Family** - June 05, 2024 at 07:27 PM

CD

“ *Chris and Melissa Davenport-Vargas purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.*



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**Chris and Melissa Davenport-Vargas** - June 05, 2024 at 06:43 PM

VM

“ *I worked for Mr. Ashby at Denton ISD several years ago. He was a good person and boss. I am very sad for the family with such a tragic loss of two family members at once. Hugs!*



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**Vicky Mahaney Howell Minter** - June 05, 2024 at 05:33 PM

BM

“ Heaven received two more Angels with open arms! No one is ever ready to lose family, friend or mentor. Terry and Virginia were all of those to many people. We know not what days we have, but I do know that what time we have should be cherished and appreciated and lived to the fullest and for my friend Terry I believe he did just that. A friend and mentor in the legacy of being a good Choctaw and representing the Tribe with dignity, stewardship, and preservation of our Tribal ways. There was never just a “good morning” or “Halito” with Terry but a heartfelt conversation whenever you saw him, he always had a smile on his face and was genuine when he asked how are you doing? Or simply sticking his head in my office with a thumbs up for the day, I will cherish those memories of my friend and co-worker. Chi Pisa La Chike mighty Tvshka your legacy will live on.

Boyd Miller - June 05, 2024 at 05:15 PM

BM

“ 1 file added to the album Blessing Vendor Fair Dance



Boyd Miller - June 05, 2024 at 05:13 PM

PE

“ Phyllis Essert lit a candle in memory of Terry and Virginia Ashby



Phyllis Essert - June 05, 2024 at 04:56 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Terry and Virginia Ashby.*



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June 05, 2024 at 04:48 PM