



# Virginia Sue Tibbs

OCT 6, 1934 - APR 6, 2012



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FLORAL HAVEN

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## Virginia Sue Tibbs

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**T**ULSA ' Sue Tibbs, 77, of Tulsa will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and stateswoman. The six-term state representative from east Tulsa died on Good Friday, April 6, 2012, surrounded by her loving family. Sue waged a long battle with ovarian cancer and survived four years after first diagnosis. Just three weeks ago she was on the Oklahoma House floor, doing what she was called to do for 12 years, 'the people's work.' Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at Grace Church, 9610 South Garnett, Broken Arrow. Burial will follow at Floral Haven Cemetery, 6500 S. 129th East Ave., Broken Arrow. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2012, in the House Chambers at the Oklahoma Capitol. Floral Haven Funeral Home of Broken Arrow is in charge of arrangements. Sue was born Oct. 6, 1934, in Tulsa to Clyde and Frances Sloan. She grew up in Turley, just outside of Tulsa, with two older sisters. She graduated from Tulsa Central High School in 1953 and married the love of her life shortly after high school. Virginia 'Sue' Sloan and Milton 'Homer' Tibbs were married Aug. 14, 1954, in Tulsa. Homer said he fell in love with an outgoing, down-to-earth girl all those years ago. And that's who she remained for 57 years. Homer and Sue were a great team, giving their all to everything from bowling to yard work to raising a family to campaigning. Daughter Debbie Wiest was born in 1956 and daughter Kelli Dodd was born in 1961. Sue was a stay-at-home mom when the girls were growing up, serving on the Parent-Teacher Association, helping with Brownies, really any and all activities her girls were involved in. She fulfilled some of those same roles for her four grandchildren, Nikki Moody, Aubrey Moody, Austin Moody and Missouri Dodd. When Sue was in her 20s she sang for the Oral Roberts University Choir. She also sang in the choir for a time at her home church, Grace Church in Broken Arrow. Sue was a woman of faith, secure in the knowledge she would spend eternity in a better place. She organized Tuesday noon devotions at the state Capitol and participated in



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a gospel singing periodically with legislators from both sides of the aisle. After her children were grown, Sue went to work as an insurance underwriter. She also served as president of the Women's Insurance Association in Oklahoma. Sue had a keen interest in politics, inherited from her father. She volunteered on the campaigns of many Tulsans, including former U.S. Sen. Don Nickles, former Tulsa Mayor Dick Crawford, and former Gov. Frank Keating. It was Keating who asked Sue to consider a race for the state House in District 23. Sue sought prayerful guidance and decided to make a run for state House in 1986. She lost that race and another in 1998. But Sue never gave up. She won the seat in 2000, and every time after that. She was serving what would have been her final two-year term because of Oklahoma term limits. Serving in public office was not a lifelong dream of Sue's. She just had a heart for her neighbors, and believed serving in the Legislature put her in a better position to help them. She was a thinker who had a heart for what was best for the people. Sue made herself available to her constituents 24 hours a day. She gave her home phone number to her neighbors and took their calls no matter the time of day. Many of her dinners went from hot to cold while she took a phone call from someone with a problem. Sue remained humble to the end, asking her family to let her know if she ever acted as though she was above the people she served. The oldest member of the Oklahoma Legislature, Sue chaired the House Public Safety Committee and served on the Appropriations & Budget Human Services subcommittee, as well as General Government and Judiciary. Sue worked tenaciously for criminal justice reform, believing in justice reinvestment, like Tulsa's Women in Recovery program. Sue began working her first session on voter ID issues, and just this March Oklahomans were required to show identification before voting because of Sue's legislation. Oklahoma Eagle Forum named Sue Legislator of the Year for her work on voter identification issues. When Sue was not at work, she enjoyed her flower and vegetable gardens. She loved to travel with family, visiting one of her favorite places, Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park, six or seven times. She was an outdoorswoman, and didn't understand anyone who wasn't. She would rather clean than cook, even though she made some delicious dishes. Homer said her greatest talent, however, was talking. And that's why the voters loved her. She knocked on



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doors, discussed the issues and prayed with her constituents about their concerns. Sue is survived by her husband of 57 years, Homer, of the home; her daughter, Debbie Wiest, of the home; her daughter, Kelli Dodd, of Tulsa; her granddaughter, Nikki Moody and her husband, John Hinkle, and their children, Karson, 11, Kelley, 7, and Arianne, 2; her granddaughter, Aubrey Moody, and her son, Evan, 4; grandson, Austin Moody; granddaughter, Missouri Dodd; sisters, Pat Boswell of Rockton, Ill., and Charlotte Tuton of Tulsa; sisters-in-law, Rosemary Allen and Janie Taylor; brothers-in-law, Eddie Tibbs and Al Tibbs; and numerous nieces, nephews, friends and colleagues. Sue was preceded in death by her parents and sons-in-law, Calvin Wiest in 2008 and Billy Jack Dodd in 2003. In lieu of flowers, the Tibbs family asks that donations be made in Sue's name to: Free in Christ Ministries, P.O. Box 252, Coweta, OK 74429; or Family & Children's Services, Attention: Women in Recovery S. Peoria Ave., Tulsa, OK 74120.



## Tribute Wall

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AM

**Amal** posted:

Your station is really cool. One of the best tignhs after sliced bread! I'll be your #1 supporter in the Montreal area for sure! You can be proud of this good work John..Bravo! Caline de Blues.. faut que j'te joues.. OffenbackClaude

July 6 at 5:41 AM

IN

**Inma** posted:

You have a wonderful web site, and all your dogs are so very beautiful. I particularly enjoyed your article about Being an individual, our lovely girl, Penny is nine months old and so nervous of everything, people ask me if she was a rescue dog, despite the fact that we have spent a lot of time socialising her from 8 weeks old. It's hard when you know she is so great and other people see her as having problems. Your words have made me see Penny's issues in a completely different light, because it is just her nature', and we love her so dearly regardless. My husband and I are considering another puppy, but are thinking in the future when Penny is older, and despite the distance, would certainly love one of your puppies, if accepted. I love all things labrador, but your site and knowledge is a cut above. Thanks so much. I also read your tribute to your Jade, which made me shed yet more tears for our old girl who died last July, it was very moving.

July 4 at 3:03 AM

DC

**Dean Oliver Kaase & Velma Oliver Curtis** posted:

We are so very sorry we could not make it to the service but wanted to let the family know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

April 11 at 6:41 PM

MH

**Mrs. Huffmaster** posted:

May God Bless Mrs. Tibbs and her family. I was honored to serve on a committee Chaired by Rep. Tibbs and she was a great leader, a true visionary and a humble servant. I greatly admired and appreciated her. She was a wonderful example of the Oklahoma Pioneer spirit. She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

April 10 at 8:43 AM



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April 10 at 8:41 AM

SH

**Sage Hancock** posted:

Sue was in my Sunday school class and she was such a warm delightful person. She will be missed. May the Holy Spirit comfort you during this time of grief.

April 10 at 5:10 AM

DP

**Dorothy Parks** posted:

There was nobody like Sue. We've known her and Homer since 1955, and without doubt are one of the finest couples we ever knew. We just didn't see enough of them. I wish we had lived closer, but we do know each other's families and always had plenty to talk about. I'll miss just knowing she's there. Love you both. And Debbie, I know you'll take good care of Dad.

April 8 at 12:45 PM

AD

**Ann Marie Diana** posted:

I had the pleasure of provding healthcare to Ms. Tibbs. She was a delightful lady and I enjoyed her company. I only wished I had known her longer. My thought and prayers are with her and her family.Do not stand at my grave and weep I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush I am the swift uplifting rush Of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there. I did not die. Ann Marie Diana

April 8 at 10:34 AM



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