



## Audrey Jean Laughlin

March 11, 1923 - March 31, 2020

On March 31, 2020, Audrey Jean (McElroy) Laughlin 97, passed away peacefully in her sleep in Hospice Care in Tulsa, Oklahoma, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Born March 11, 1923 in Wingham, Ontario, Canada to Thomas Albert and Marie Louise (Belisle) McElroy, Audrey grew up in Logansport, Indiana, graduating from Logansport High School in 1941. She would stay friends with the LHS Class of '41 well past their 70th class reunion.

One of the great joys of Audrey's life was music. She began as a local guest vocalist with Big Bands that would tour the US before and during WWII. Her love of singing continued throughout her life, with her last performance at the age of 96 at a Veteran's Day program at the Broadmoor Retirement Center, where she resided for 11 years.

Two weeks after the end of WWII, Audrey married Colonel Joseph Lyle Laughlin. Their marriage became the greatest adventure of Audrey's life, spanning over 60 years before Colonel Laughlin's death in February 2006. Audrey readily accepted the challenge of creating a home at each new assignment over the next 24 years. She set an example for all military wives: moving wherever duty called, raising her four children, embracing and thriving in the social responsibilities.

When Colonel Laughlin retired in 1969, he and Audrey chose to live in Miami, Ok, where Audrey enjoyed being a member of the First Presbyterian Church while continuing her involvement in the community and school activities. Their final move was to Claremore, Ok, where Joe and Audrey were able to simply enjoy each other's company in their twilight years. Audrey once again made sure that it was a welcoming and loving home in which the whole family could gather.

She is survived by her 4 children: Bruce (Mary Jo) Laughlin of Tulsa, Craig (Janice) Laughlin of Lewisville, TX, Jo Ann Keirsej of Oklahoma City, and Kelly Rooker Taylor (Bob) of Tulsa, as well as six grandchildren: Jennifer and Jamie Laughlin, Collin Keirsej, and Robert, Elizabeth and John Rooker.

Audrey will find peace and be with her love again at Floral Haven Funeral Home. Because of the current health crisis, there will not be a service at this time. Instead, please visit [FloralHaven.com](http://FloralHaven.com) to express condolences. Remembrances would be appreciated by the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

# Comments

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“ Laughlin, Rooker-Taylor Families,  
Our family is very sorry for your tremendous loss especially during this time. Wishing you peace & comfort at every wave of grief.  
Love & virtual hugs,  
The Zetik Family

**Megan Zetik** - April 08 at 04:43 PM

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“ Kelly, Bob, Robert, Elizabeth and John- I am sorry for your loss of your mother and grandmother. I pray that our God will fill you with peace, love and hope during this time of healing and uncertainty in our world. With love and sympathy, Sarah & The Stew Crew XOXO.

**Sarah Stewart** - April 08 at 01:06 PM

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“ My name is Jean Sears and I perform with a Ladies group called the Doo Woppa Do's. We would go over to the Broadmoore retirement center about once a month and do a program of 40's, 50's and 60's music. That is where we met Audrey. The first time we were there I kept hearing this beautiful voice singing with us. She knew all the words to every song! It was Audrey. She informed me that she had also sung with the Big Bands during WWII. It was a joy to listen to her sing. The smile that would radiate across her face was amazing! She made a lasting memory for me. She was always very well dressed and put together. Sometimes I could even hand her the Mic and she would take over. You all had a very talented and pleasurable mother and grand mother. She was always a joy to sing with and for. I am Thankful that God provided the opportunity to meet her and share some of her joy! I can hear her singing up in Heaven now.

**Eugenia M Sears** - April 08 at 12:48 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing that wonderful memory of Mom with us, Jean! It brought a smile to our faces. Bless you!

**Kelly Rooker Taylor** - April 09 at 10:10 AM