



Loretta Gibson

August 13, 1932 - January 20, 2021

Loretta Gibson, a resident of Tulsa, passed away on January 20, 2021 at the age of 88. She was born August 13, 1932 to Ernest McAlester and Bessie (Smith) McAlester as the 3rd child in LeFlore, Oklahoma. She married the love of her life, Evert Leon Gibson on September 20, 1949 in Crawford County, Arkansas and they had shared in over 70 beautiful years together.

She was a preschool teacher and director for several Baptist Churches for many years including, Sequoyah Hills Baptist Church, Parkland Baptist Church and Gracemont Baptist Church. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Jimmie Dixon, Wanda Lawrence and Margaret Pickle.

Survivors include her two sons, Leon Gibson of Tulsa and Larry Gibson and wife, Paula of Wagoner; grandson, Gerad Gibson and wife, Brook of Jenks; three great granddaughters, Alexis, Hailey and Rachel Gibson; sisters, Sue Mings, Joan Ollar, Linda Boucher, Evelyn Butler and brother, J.E. McAlester.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sequoyah Hills Baptist Church, 714 N Harvard Ave, Tulsa, OK 74115.

We do ask everyone to please wear a mask to the funeral and there will be limited seating due to Covid.

***FOR THOSE THAT CANNOT ATTEND THE SERVICE IN PERSON, PLEASE COPY AND PASTE THE FOLLOWING WEB ADDRESS IN YOUR BROWSER OR CLICK ON THE LINK:

THE LIVE STREAM WILL START AT APPROXIMATELY 2:45 PM. IF YOU DO NOT SEE THE LIVE FEED, PLEASE REFRESH THE PAGE UNTIL IT APPEARS***

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/46326>

Events

JAN **Funeral Service** **03:00PM**
27

Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel

6500 S 129th E Ave., Broken Arrow, OK, US, 74012

Comments



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Loretta Gibson.



January 26 at 06:07 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Loretta Gibson.



January 25 at 04:58 PM



“ Loretta loved Holidays! She would cook the best homemade meals and make it special for the family! She always made enough for seconds and for everyone to take home dinner. She and Evert loved playing games with friends especially dominoes! They laughed so much telling the family about their game times. She loved to travel enjoying the beach or mountains. She liked her garden of flowers around the home. Her and Evert planted a small garden every year tomatoes, cucumbers, green onions. She worked tirelessly preparing for each Sunday for her preschool Sunday classes and loved vacation bible school and Falls Creek for church camp. She read alot of bible literature and the bible. She loved her family, grandson and great granddaughters. You could ask Loretta to go someplace with you and she would jump at the occassion. She nurtured all children with loving arms and patience for listening and the children loved her! Giving her time to them was important wanting each child to learn the love of Jesus.

She liked to tell about her growing up with her Mom and Dad, her sisters and brother. Hard times and good times that made her a strong woman. She had a great sense of humor! She was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, and sister. She was a special one of kind child of God. She will be missed by everyone that had a part in her life. She leaves a piece of herself in all of us. She was just that kind of a Lady!! I love you Loretta, I love you Mom!

Larry and Paula Gibson - January 24 at 09:37 PM



“ I had a lot more to say but others already said a lot and no one wants to see me tear up the whole time. I should have just posted it.

Love you!

Grandma was born on a farm like I guess most in Oklahoma at that time. However, her job was helping raising her younger sisters and I believe that had a great influence on her life. It is hard to think about Grandma without thinking about how much she loved Jesus and dedicated her life to sharing that love of Jesus with Kids.

I would like to share stories about her from my perspective as her only grandson.

Before I could remember, My Mom and Grandma would laugh at the story of when I was a young baby and my Mom who was probably tired, frustrated and unaccustomed to kids such as new mothers often are and just needed help with me and a little time for herself drove me to Grandma's house and with no other communication besides the tears in both of our eyes standing at the doorway Grandma happily took me till Mom came back. She didn't need to know what happened, she didn't ask when Mom would be back, she was just there for us with her open arms.

Since then I spent a lot of my childhood at Grandma's house, it was like my second home. I was always welcomed and entertained there, even if it was just doing nothing. Sleeping over on Saturday night and church on Sunday morning was a regular occurrence when I wasn't at the lake with my parents.

By the way "The Lake" is a small lot and mobile home near Lake Ft Gibson that Grandma purchased for family weekend getaways which became so much more for us than she could have ever imagined.

When I would stay at Grandma's house she would always have activities for me to do and keep my interest. Her well of activities was deep and broad and changed as I got older. I remember puzzles that painted Bible Stories, crafts that had me using scissors and glue and paint and lessons of Jesus. I bible verses and stories that strengthened my faith. We would take mini adventures which would be walking around the undeveloped part of the neighborhood where we would usually jump rabbits. Grandpa would go to bed early every night, that is when Grandma would make me warm milk and it was our time that we could just talk about anything.

I remember taking long warm baths in her house. She would set asides water toys for me play with. My favorite was a shot with the needle removed she kept it from a time I was in the hospital. Another time I remember should would place a tape recorder in the bathroom so I can talk into it or sing while in the bath. She enjoyed recording my childhood in pictures and I am thankful for that. Later I was impressed by her ability to use a computer and make custom birthday cards and banners including pictures of me that she knew I would like. She made special homemade birthday cakes for me and she always made Christmas special at her house with nativity scenes and her famous crock pot Wassel for parties.

While she doted over me and made me feel special Grandma wasn't a push over and I respected that. She would make me eat my vegetables. I would ask to I "Have" to eat them, she would reply "No, you GET to eat them", Grandpa and I would laugh everytime. I remember once we didn't see eye to eye, she probably wouldn't give me something I thought wanted. I told her that I was going to run away. She said "Ok". It was dark, a little chilly out. I made it to the curb and stood there awhile. Then decided maybe I needed to discuss this a little further with her. Later she told me that she was watching me from the window the whole time.

As I got older I remember I came over 1 summer day and in the backyard was a baseball pitchback, didn't know a thing like that existed but then I spent countless hours aiming for the strike zone and catching the subsequent fly balls. We walked to ALL the garage sales in the neighborhood, where one time she bought me my first Atari video game "Pong". Another garage sale she bought my first bench press.

When I wasn't at their house I would often call them and talk about anything I was interested in. Sometimes it would be just sitting in silence watching the same TV show.

She would always invite me to Wednesday night church. She would pick me up after dinner, take me to church and my Royal Ambassadors class and then afterwards to McDonalds for Carmel Sunday or chicken nuggets because she knew that is what I liked. I now know that she knew McDonalds was a way to keep me connected to Jesus on Wednesday nights.

Grandpa preferred sitting with the garage door opened smoking his pipe. It was Grandma who wanted to go places. And they did a lot traveling through her church experiences. They took me on many of trips. I remember several trips to Glorietta, a beautiful Summer church camp where she taught others how to teach Sunday school I got to participate in the week long camp. Some of my favorite vacations were in Gulf Shores when I would have both sets of my Grandparents there. Grandma would always have an extra room for me to stay, later, also for my girlfriend who became my wife and then even later made room

for my kids. My oldest daughter's first word was "Bird" looking out of the window of Grandma's condo watching the seagulls fly and catching bread. As a young teenager Grandma noticed I was interested in politics so she planned a trip to DC she pulled out all the stops with nice hotels and fancy restaurants. We walked miles and miles at the Smithsonian, and then other sites. I remember her energy.

We took town trips as well. I remember she was excited to see the new Mall open up near their house and wanted to take me there to see what a mall was and be impressed by the big fountain in the center. Later I found myself hanging out there a lot as that's what teenagers did at that time. She enjoyed the Olive Garden and took me to have her favorite "Eggplant Parmigiana", still my favorite Italian dish today. When the Outlet mall in Stroud opened she took me on a fun trip to buy school clothes. I still have a couple of sweaters she bought me that a couple of my daughters now wear. Later in life when I was buying my own clothes along with my to be wife I remember a few times we truly coincidentally ran into her at Mervyn's a few of times at the mall. We were glad to see each other and then she bought everything I had in my cart.

Grandma was so happy for me in finding and marrying Brook. Even though they were married longer than anyone I have ever met (over 70 years) she would remember and recognize our young single digit wedding anniversaries.

Naturally as I got older and my life focused on college/early career and wife I didn't spend the time with them like I did as a child. However, Grandma was thrilled about her great granddaughters and was happy to watch them for us while we were at work and juggled watching younger ones all day at home and helping pick older ones up from school. They came to our houses in Tulsa, even we moved to Tahlequah and then back to Tulsa. They enjoyed our girls and we had many enjoyable visits with them on a routine basis. When we spoke on the phone the first thing they always asked were "How are them girls doing?".

I remember visiting them alone at their house after all my girls were more independent and school aged just before their health started to fade faster just several years ago but seems like last week. I remember telling them that I had a great childhood with them and that I was so happy and blessed and how special I thought it was that all 3 of my girls got to experience them like I did.

I am very fortunate to have Grandma in my life. I feel like I am a good Dad. But I am confident I will be a great Grandparent because of the role models that I have had.

You are very lucky if you have people in your life that prays for you. However, there isn't many people who truly prays for you on a daily basis, year end year out, not like a grandmother does, not like my Grandma Loretta. I may never know the full impact her prayers had on my life. But I always knew she was praying for me and my family. I Love you Grandma. Gerad Gibson.

Gerad Gibson - January 27 at 11:29 PM



“ Loretta was my friend and mentor in preschool teaching for many years. We were together at Gracemont Baptist Church for several years and our friendship has continued since we moved from Tulsa 32 years ago. Sadly, we had not communicated for the past year or so. She and Evert were the best of the best! They came to Heavener to do a preschool training session and spent the night in our home. We have wonderful memories. I well remember

the Santa Claus wedding shower we had when Larry and Paula married! And the many summers at Glorieta; Falls Creek teaching and training seminars; WEE workshops and many, many other events. She was one of the greatest people God has ever made. Love her dearly. Shirley O'Dell

Shirley ODell - January 29 at 11:04 PM