

THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

November 3, 2025/ Vol 35

sja PHOTOGRAPHY
Photographer: Susan Matney, DVM

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



December 6

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Drumright Museum Lawn

First Friday Karaoke

November 8

Showdown

November 23

Cookies with Santa

December 6

Christmas Parade

***See Page 5
For More Information***

DOWN AT THE DEPOT

Down at the Depot: Fun Facts #2

First, I want to say thank you to all our monthly readers who enjoy reading about Drumright, past and present. We hope you always see something in "The Gusher" that is informative and entertaining. So here is something a little different for this month. Here are some fun facts about some of our treasures, down at the depot.

Watercolor Paintings of Drumright's Past Eras

A few weeks ago, I was in Stillwater, and I happened to enter the Karman Korner Resale Shop on Main Street. I wasn't looking for anything in particular, so I wandered around the store looking at everything. Suddenly, I saw a pair of watercolor prints that were instantly identifiable to me. One painting featured the

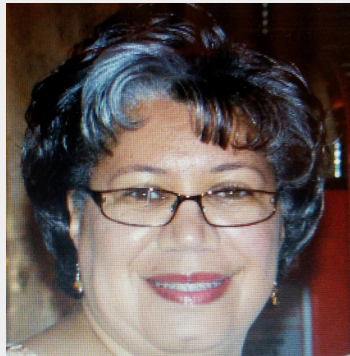
"Roberts Hotel," the "Main Gasoline Station," seven homes on a hillside and several wooden oil derricks in the background. The second painting featured a six-mule team, mired in mud and standing before a broken wagon hauling oilfield equipment on a long uphill trek. Storefronts lined the street and several wooden oil derricks are visible in the background. Both paintings were done by Stillwater realtor and businessman, Jack Allred. He is a 1960 graduate of Oklahoma State University. His paintings of the OSU Edmon Low Library and Old Central are held in the OSU Museum of Art. These watercolor paintings that highlight the past eras of Drumright were featured as cover illustrations for the history series written by Dr. Durward Earl Newsome.

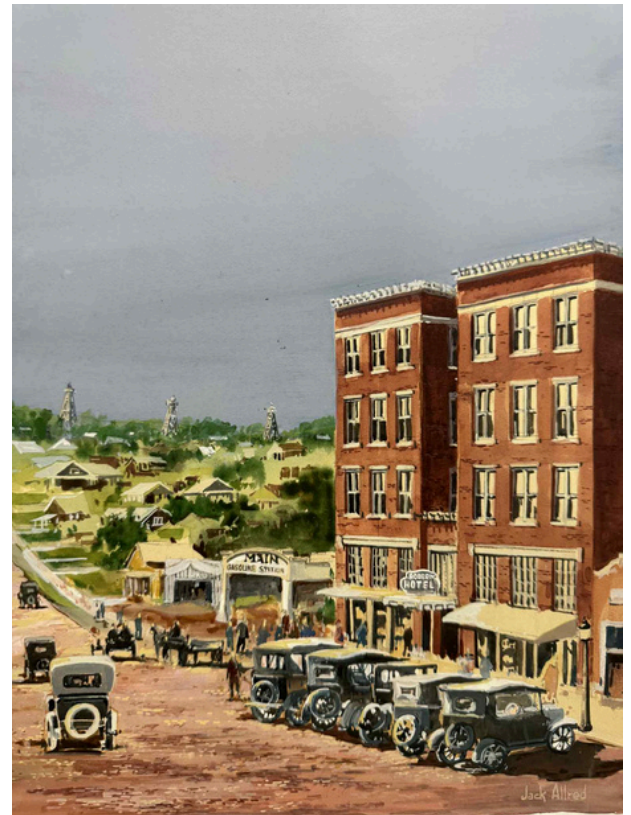
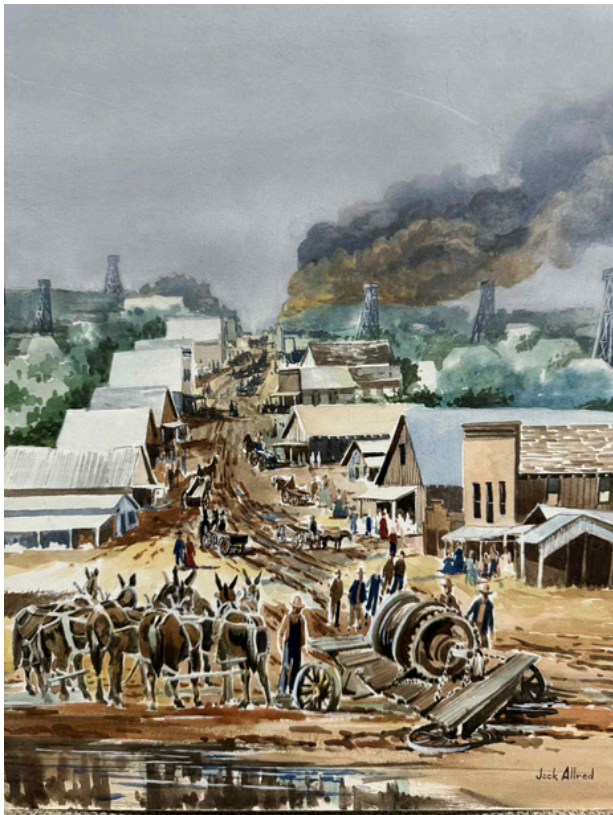
The mule team on the muddy road is the cover art for "Drumright: The Glory Days of a Boom Town." The cover art for his second book is the watercolor of the Roberts Hotel. So of course, I purchased these two watercolor prints, and they now have a permanent home, down at the depot. Come by and take a look!

The Wooden Pipeliner

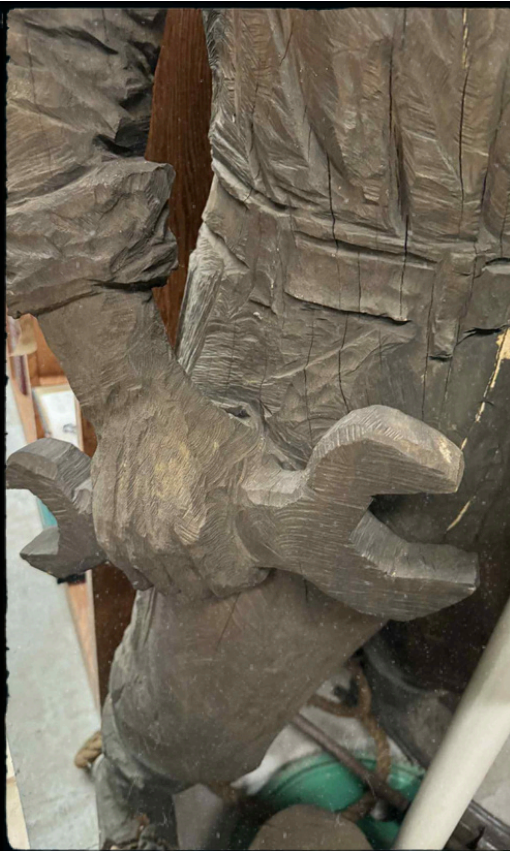
So, if you drove east or west on Broadway Street in Drumright (Highway 33) anytime between 1930 and 2000 or so, you have driven past a huge American sycamore tree on the north side of the road. It grew at the bottom of Tiger Hill, where it was protected and watered and it eventually towered over everything. As the years passed by, this tree became a landmark with its smooth white and gray bark and impressive height. This tree uprooted the sidewalk and threatened to uproot the highway itself, and so a decision was made to take the tree down. But a tree this impressive couldn't just disappear into firewood and sawdust. An artist came to town, disguised as a wood carver and this tree in just a few days, became "The Pipeliner." He is a true representation of a Drumright oilfield worker. The trunk of this tree became an oilfield worker in coveralls and work boots, complete with a hard hat, a lunch bucket, and a wrench in his hand. This statue stood there on

Broadway for several years, until the weather and insects began to compromise his condition. He was eventually moved indoors to the Oilfield Room of our museum, where he stands watch and greets every visitor with a smile. Come on down to the depot and say hello to Mr. Pipeliner!



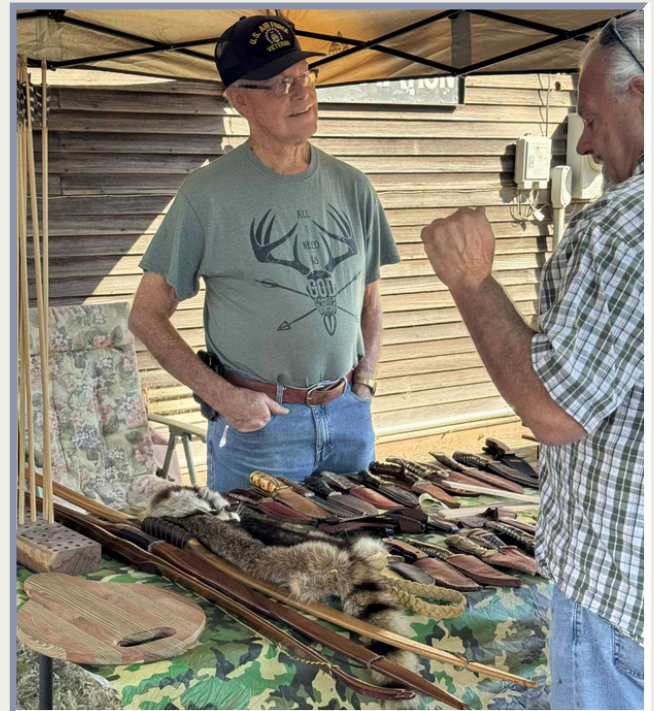


Paintings by Jack Allred of Stillwater.



Mr. Pipeliner was carved from a huge American sycamore tree that grew at the bottom of Tiger Hill.

October Monthly Market



Upcoming Events In The Oil Patch



Drumright Public Library

Drumright Public Library Weekly Hours



Phone 918-352-2228

Monday 11:00 am – 8:00 Pm
Tuesday 11:00am- 4:00 Pm
Wednesday 11:00 am -4:00 Pm
Thursday 2:00 pm -8:00 Pm
Friday 11:00 am-4:00 Pm
Saturday 10:00am -1:00pm
CLOSED SUNDAYS

Obituaries

Paul Branch

Paul Richard Branch, who served the city of Drumright as both mayor and city manager, died on October 16, 2025, at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa. He was 94 years old.

He was born on August 23, 1931, in Oklahoma City to C. M. and Blanche (Vermillion) Branch. They lived in the Capitol Hill area for much of his early years, then made a succession of moves to Freeport, TX, Comanche, OK, and Compton, CA, before settling in Bristow in 1946, when he was a sophomore in high school. There he played football for the Bristow Purple Pirates and met the woman who would become his wife, Luann Jones.

After high school, he attended Bristow Junior College and worked in retail for Woolworth's. In 1951 he enlisted in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He served as a storekeeper aboard the U.S.S. William Mitchell in the Pacific before being assigned to shore duty at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1952, he married Luann; she joined him in California after she finished college. He was discharged in 1956 and enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, graduating in 1959 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing.

He worked in sales for Conoco in Oklahoma City and Tulsa for two years. In 1961, he joined his father-in-law Cal Jones in a wholesale business selling Mobil gasoline and products in Drumright. He and Luann stayed in Drumright for the rest of their lives, raising three children there and giving their time and talent to the town in innumerable ways. He sold his business in 1981 and devoted his time to raising horses and investing in oil production.

In 1973, Paul ran unopposed for a seat on Drumright's city council and was chosen by the council to be vice mayor. Five years later, he was selected as mayor and held that office from 1978 to 1987. In 1987, he went to work for the city's gas authority, eventually becoming city manager. He retired in 1999.

After his retirement, he volunteered as a member of the Creek County Excise Board, the Drumright Industrial Authority, and the Creek County Industrial Authority, where he became an emeritus member last year after 25 years of service. In 2006, he and Luann were inducted into the Drumright Hall of Fame.

Paul was a friend and mentor to a wide range of people in his extended family, his work, and in his community. He was also an avid golfer and a passionate sports fan. Besides his beloved Oklahoma Sooners, he was a vocal fan and scourge of referees at his children's and grandchildren's basketball games.

Luann died in 2018. Paul is survived by a brother, George Branch of Dallas; a sister, Eleanor Souders of Van Wert, Ohio; and three children: Douglas and his wife Lauren of Oklahoma City; Mark and his partner Dawn Lorentson of New Haven, CT; and Paula Dennis and her husband Gary of Tulsa. His grandchildren are Kyle Dennis of Tulsa; Katie Monsour and husband Chris of Jackson, MS; Emily Rebentisch and husband Joseph of Tulsa; Logan Branch of Norman; Austin Branch of Denver; John Branch of Brooklyn, NY; Isabel Branch of Hamden, CT; Amber Liles and husband Nathan, Gil White, and Brayden White, all of Oklahoma City; and Danielle Hernandez of Alexandria, VA. His great-grandchildren are Ari Branch of Norman; Lee and Branch Monsour of Jackson, MS; and Lilianne, Coralee, and Liam Liles of Oklahoma City. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, and a caring set of friends who helped him enormously in the six years after Luann died. He was fortunate to have a devoted and tireless caregiver in Jean Erwin of Drumright, who helped both him and Luann in their last years.

Obituaries

Memorials in his name may be sent to the University of Oklahoma Foundation (oufoundation.org).



Obituaries

Edna Jean "Jeanie" Crabtree

Jeannie was born on October 4, 1949 in Drumright, Oklahoma to the late Finis Stanley & Dortha Marie (Johnson) Stanley. She passed away peacefully at her residence on October 14, 2025 at the age of 76 years & 10 days. Jeannie grew up in Drumright and attended the Drumright Schools. She married Ronnie Crabtree in Olive, OK on March 15, 1980 & they remained together until his death. Jeannie has lived all of her life in this area. She enjoyed playing Bingo and watching her sons-in-law and grandchildren race cars at the Creek County Speedway & other places. In addition to her parents & husband, she was preceded in death by 2 Brothers: Jim Stanley & Raymond Stanley; & a Sister: Susie Stanley.

She is survived by Children: Linda James & husband Jesse of Drumright - Dawn Fisher & husband Jamie of Cushing - Tonya Rhine & husband Jerry of Tulsa; Grandchildren: Jesse, II - Brandon & Stephanie - Jase - Somer & Tyler - Jerry - Brandon - Haley - & Kylie; Great Grandchildren: Logan - Aspen - Luke - Oakley - & Bryxton; a Great Great Granddaughter: Paisleigh; Brother: Rocky & Deeanne Stanley of Drumright; Sister: Brenda Vann of Bristow; 2 very special Friends: Sandy Whisnant & Vicki Gillette; PLUS numerous Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, and other relatives and friends.



Obituaries

Nora Jane Green (Crawford)

Graveside funeral rites for Drumright resident, Nora Green, were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 31st, 2025 at the Kellyville Cemetery in Kellyville, Oklahoma with Pastor Jake Jones officiating. The family received friends at the funeral home on Wednesday, October 29th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services are entrusted to the care of Michaels Funeral Home of Drumright.

Nora was born on September 15, 1956 in Torrance, California to the late Tommy Dale Crawford and Thelma "Claudine" (Carlock) Crawford. She passed from this life at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 21, 2025 at the age of 69 years, 1 month, and 6 days. Nora's family traveled back and forth from California to Sapulpa, Oklahoma and eventually settled in Sapulpa. She graduated from Sapulpa High School in 1974 and went on to work in many different jobs from a CNA at Hillcrest Hospital to advertisement at the Sapulpa Daily Herald.

In 1976 she met her soon-to-be husband, Jerry, after backing her car into a fence at Bartlett Collins where he worked security. They went on their first date on New Year's Eve and later married on May 7, 1977 in Sapulpa. In her 30's Nora went on to further her education eventually graduating from Oral Robert University in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Most of her teaching career was with Tulsa Public Schools until she retired in 2018.

Nora enjoyed many things including working on her family tree and genealogy and traveling to Colorado to visit family. Some of her favorite places were New Mexico, Montana, Missouri, and Nebraska. She loved reading and writing and at one time attended a romance writers club in hopes of one day publishing her own book. Nora was known as KBSTVW to the Amateur Radio World where, alongside Jerry, they attended Ham Feast Day as well as briefly enjoying storm chasing. She enjoyed being Mrs. Claus a few times with her husband, Santa, of course. She enjoyed OU football and screamed "Boomer Sooner" at every touchdown. She also enjoyed watching the Olympics with figure skating being her favorite. She liked crafting, sewing, gardening, and telling stories.

In 2018 Nora obtained a Certificate of Completion for Oklahoma Self-Defense Act Firearms Safety and Training Course through Tulsa Red Castle Gun Club. She believed our constitutional rights come with a great responsibility to be trained and educated.

In April of 2021 Jerry and Nora bought their final home. It brought her much joy to dream of future gatherings. With her mother in Mannford, sister, daughter, and grandchildren in Drumright it was a relief to be closer to family.

Nora is preceded in death by both parents and her stepbrother, E.J. Holden.

She leaves behind her loving husband: Jerry Green, of Drumright, Oklahoma; Daughter: Jennifer and Andrew Davis of Drumright, Sons: Jerry Green and Samantha of Sperry, Oklahoma, and John Green and Heather of Colorado. Grandchildren: Kyaira and Colin Walliser, Andrew Jr, Novaly, Jeniah, Valana and Daleby Davis, Noah, Caleb, Aiden Green; bonus Granddaughters: Kiowa and Dakota Spencer; Great Grandsons: Tommy, whom she lovingly referred to as her "Tom Tom", and Ezrhen, her "Easy E"; Sister: Carla and Chuck Marshall of Drumright; Brothers: Ron Crawford and Steve Crawford of California; one estranged brother in Tulsa and Stepfather: Albert Holden of Mannford; her beloved pup, Cheeto, along with numerous family, friends and her former students.

Obituaries



Obituaries

Ruth Naomi Hoos (Lopez)

Graveside funeral rites for Drumright resident, Ruth Hoos, were held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 25th at the Highland Cemetery in Oilton, Oklahoma. Pastor Brandon Geyer of the Olive First Baptist Church will officiate. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Ruth was born on December 3, 1969 in Scranton, Pennsylvania to the late Angelo David Lopez & Joan Edna (Frantz) Lopez. She passed from this life at her residence on October 21, 2025 at the age of 55 years, 10 months, and 18 days. She married Junior Hoos in 2016 & they made their home in Drumright.

Her remaining family includes her Husband & several other relatives.

Frank Joseph Mattaliano

Memorial services for Oilton resident, Frank Mattaliano, were held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25th at the Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Oilton with Pastor Nathan Painter officiating. Cremation arrangements are entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Frank Joseph Mattaliano was born on August 1, 1958 in Passaic, New Jersey to the late Joseph Paul Mattaliano & Frances Alta (Santifort) Mattaliano. He passed from this life in Tulsa on October 13, 2025 at the age of 67 years, 2 months, and 12 days. Frank was raised & educated in Passaic where he spent the majority of his life. He married Bessie Ella Wilson in Arlington, Texas on August 4, 2001. They moved from Florida to Oilton in 2017. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a Sister: Helen Riviara.

His remaining family includes his Wife: Bessie of the home; Children: Sara Draper – Francis G. Mattaliano – Gino L. Mattaliano; 2 Brothers: Anthony & Joseph; a Sister: Donna Vanderwork; PLUS numerous Grandchildren – Great Grandchildren – Nieces – Nephews – Cousins – and other relatives.

Obituaries

Cathy Lee McFarland (Highfield)

Cathy was born in Nowata, Oklahoma on November 6, 1960 to Connie Highfield & Donelda (Hendricks) Highfield. She passed from this life suddenly in Tulsa on September 29, 2025 at the age of 64 years, 10 months, & 23 days. Cathy was raised & educated in Tulsa. She moved back to Nowata in 1979 where she met the love of her life, Shawn. They were united in marriage on September 25, 1980 & made their home in Nowata. Cathy had worked for the Nowata Daily Star from 1981 to 1986 as a reporter, photographer, and the editor of the People Page. In 1986 she went to work for ConocoPhillips as an accounting associate. In 1994 her pride and joy, Michael, was born. She later returned to ConocoPhillips where she retired in 2018. Cathy was the National JANUES editor and a life member, past president & treasurer of the Jane Phillips Society Bartlesville Chapter. She was also past member of the Boys & Girls Club Basketball Association of Nowata, Cub master for the Boy Scouts of America, and an active member of the Nowata Historical Society. Cathy loved being a wife, mother, grandmother, and also volunteering and helping people however she could. She was preceded in death by her FATHER: Connie Highfield; GRANDPARENTS: Wilbert & Frances Highfield - Gene & Edna Hendricks; AUNTS: Phyllis (Hendricks) Schweers & Nellie (Hendricks) Davis; UNCLE: Rex Highfield; COUSIN: Suzan (Davis) Fitzer.

She leaves behind her loving HUSBAND: Shawn of the home; SON: Michael McFarland & wife Karen; GRANDDAUGHTER: Kassidy Lackey; MOTHER: Donelda "Dee" Hough; BROTHER: Sam Highfield & wife Vicki; SISTER: Laura Highfield; PLUS several Nieces - Nephews - Cousins - other family members & numerous friends.



Obituaries

Charles Grenville Poppy

A memorial service for Olive resident, Charles Poppy, was held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 25th in the Olive First Baptist Church With Rev, Joey Johnson officiating. Military funeral honors were provided by the United States Navy. Cremation services are entrusted to the care of Michael' Funeral Home of Drumright.

Charles was born in Royal Oak, Michigan on March 4, 1931 to the late Guy Poppy & Nellie (Taylor) Poppy. He passed from this life at his home on October 10, 2025 at the age of 94 years, 7 months, & 6 days. Charles grew up in Pontiac, Michigan. He joined the United States Navy in 1950 & was honorably discharged in 1952. He moved to Arizona in 1960 & remained there until moving to Olive in 1996. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 3 Brothers: Guy, Bob, & Cecil Poppy; & 2 Sisters: Ruth & Nellie.

His remaining family includes his Children: Gary Poppy – Bonnie Jo Fisher – Lori Stone – Anthony Poppy - & Wendy Waites; a Sister: Sarah; PLUS numerous Grandchildren – Great Grandchildren – GreatGreat Grandchildren – Nieces – Nephews – Cousins – and other family members.



Obituaries

LaNelda Ann Watkins

Graveside funeral rites for Warr Acers, Oklahoma resident, LaNelda Watkins, were held 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25th at the Shamrock Cemetery at Shamrock, Oklahoma. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home Drumright.

LaNelda was born on February 21, 1967 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to the late Robert Watkins & Clara Juanita (Pittser) Watkins. She passed from this life suddenly on October 20 2025 at the age of 58 years, 7 months, & 29 days. LaNelda was raised & educated in Bethany, Oklahoma & was a 1986 graduate of Bethany High School. She had worked as an accomplished chef until her ill health forced her into early retirement. She was preceded in death by her Father in 1986; her Mother in 2025; Brother Danny Watkins; Sister: Juanita Christine Helms; Niece Shannon Watkins.

She is survived by a Sister: Roberta Watkins of Warr Acres; Brother: Harley Watkins of Harrah; Special Nieces & Nephews & Cousins: Shelia Puckett - Larry Miller - Kevin Watkins - Kerry Taghizadeh; PLUS numerous Great Nieces & Nephews - other relatives and friends.



Obituaries

Larry Lloyd VanZant

A memorial service for Drumright resident, Larry VanZant, was held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8th in the Drumright First Baptist Church. Rev. George "Marty" Brock III officiated. Cremation & services are entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Larry was born in Walters, Oklahoma on June 5, 1948 to the late Jack & Helen VanZant. He passed from this life in Drumright on October 24, 2025 at the age of 77 years, 4 months, & 19 days. Larry was raised & educated in Drumright and was a 1966 graduate of Drumright High School. He lived his entire life in this area and drove a propane delivery truck until his retirement. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 2 brothers & a sister.

His remaining family includes his former wife & caregiver: Beckie VanZant of Drumright; also an estranged daughter; plus several nieces, nephews, cousins, & other relatives.

Memorials in his name may be sent to: Cimarron Baptist Association
Chainsaw Crew
316 E. Grandstaff
Cushing, OK 74023



*in
loving
memory*

Newsletter Designed By Carson Creative

