



Johnnie Lucille Thomas

November 20, 1921 - March 3, 2018

Johnnie Lucille Gatlin Thomas was born November 20, 1921 in Spaulding, Oklahoma to Lon & Ollie (James) Gatlin. She left her earthly home March 3, 2018 at Sulphur, Oklahoma at the age of 96 years 3 months and 7 days. She moved to Murray County in 1924, living in the Hickory Community. She entered school at Hickory in 1927 at the age of five, graduating in 1938, at the age of sixteen. Johnnie attended East Central University, earning both a Bachelor and Master degree, with majors in English and Elementary Education. She married Daniel Mearl Thomas, July 11, 1941. Mearl entered the US Army in June 1942 after receiving a letter from his "Uncle Sam" inviting him to join the war. Johnnie began her teaching career at Mannsville, Carter County, Oklahoma when Mearl was overseas engaged in the war effort. After Mearl returned home Johnnie began teaching at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in 1947 and taught there until her retirement in 1983. She began as a Kindergarten teacher and was in that position until 1975 when she became the supervisor of the Elementary Education Department. Johnnie was a member of Murray County Retired Teachers and served as Secretary and Treasurer for many years. She was also a member of the Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association, Arbuckle Historical Society, Crossway Baptist Church, and the Amateur Genealogical Society. Johnnie was an avid reader in her retirement years. When she didn't have anything to read she would get out paper and pencil and write down the fifty states and their capitals as well as the seventy seven counties and county seats in

Oklahoma. She had a thirst for knowledge and imparting that knowledge to others. She never stopped learning or teaching. Johnnie and Mearl loved to travel by car, especially to Branson, Missouri, and it was often said that Johnnie and Mearl were "on the road again".

The Thomas family started attending First Baptist Church in 1948 and became members in 1952. Johnnie was a Sunday School teacher in the Adult and Deaf departments at First Baptist Church for 30 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Mearl in 2006
Sisters: Lahoma South, Melva Essary, Othell Gatlin and Loretta Drake.

1 brother: L.D. Gatlin.

Survived by her Daughters & sons-in-law: Susie Krogh & John, of Sulphur, OK
Kathy Viehouser & Darrell, of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho

4 Grandchildren & spouses: Darold Lathum & Penny,
Dana Seaman & Eric

Dr. Marta Krogh, Amanda Wood & Jason

5 Great Grandchildren: Alex Lathum, Tyler Lathum, Tanner Seaman,
Wyatt Seaman, Baisley Seaman

3 Great Great Grandchildren: Aeva, Baker & Chloe Lathum,

1 Brother & his wife: Pete Gatlin & Barbara, of Meridan, OK

2 sisters: Willa Dean "Bill" Hicks, of Pauls Valley, OK

Brondell Nelson, of McLoud, OK

Brother-in-law: Bob Essary, of Sulphur,OK

Johnnie wrote this obituary herself many years ago.

Pallbearers David Lathum, Tyler Lathum, Harvey Stinson, Tim Howe, Joe Caudle, Keith John.

Services will be held Wednesday March 7, 2018 at 2:00PM at the Chapel of Crossway Baptist Church officiated by Rev. Bill Leveridge. Burial will be at Oaklawn Cemetery under the direction of DeArman Funeral Home

Donations may be made to the Retired Teachers Scholarship Fund, The Historical Society in Sulphur, or the Crossway Baptist Church.

Family will receive visitors from 5pm to 7pm Tuesday at the Funeral Home

Online condolences may be sent to www.dearmanfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

DeArman Funeral Home - Sulphur
1129 W 1st
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 622-2121
<https://www.dearmanfuneralhome.com>

Service

MAR 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Chapel of Crossway Baptist Church
2108 W Broadway Ave
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 622-2550

Tribute Wall



“ *Johnnie Lucille Thomas*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Karen Jones purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red for the family of Johnnie Lucille Thomas.*



Karen Jones - March 07, 2018 at 10:32 AM



“ *I worked with Johnnie from 1972 until her retirement in 1988. She was always pleasant to be around and genuinely cared for the children.*



Velda Hill - March 06, 2018 at 11:07 PM



“ *Heaven has a special lady watching over those she left behind...Grandma Johnnie was a very big blessing in my life...love and hugs to all...Melissa Lathum*

Melissa Lathum - March 06, 2018 at 11:02 PM

 Linda
Blue

“ Mrs. Thomas was my first teacher at OSD, she was always warm but stern, taught me to read from "Dick, Jane & Spot" book, I close my eyes and still see me there in that classroom forever imprinted in my heart. My love for books started there. She planted so many seeds in each and every child she encountered throughout her years OSD. Now she flies with the little angels who need her up there.

Linda Blue - March 06, 2018 at 08:56 PM

RP

“ She was one of the best elementary principle i've ever had! she would be really missed. May the family be comfort knowing that she was loved by most of us.



Rae Lynn Parry - March 06, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Johnnie Lucille Thomas.



March 05, 2018 at 03:28 PM