



Nova Jean Dodson

November 9, 1926 - October 7, 2017

Nova Jean Farris Dodson, 90, died October 7, 2017, at Arbuckle Memorial Hospital, Sulphur, Oklahoma. Born November 9, 1926 in Nowata, Oklahoma, Nova was a long-time and beloved resident of Sulphur.

Nova was the seventh child born to Juanita Viola (Neta) Ball and Leonidas Larkin (Lonnie) Farris, who had nine children, eight daughters and a son. When Nova was eight, her mother passed away. Unable to provide sufficient parenting, Lonnie put Nova and one of her younger sisters, Betty Jo, on a bus that traveled from Idabel, Oklahoma, to Long Beach, California, where they were met by several older sisters who had already made the long journey to the West Coast. Nova and her sisters shared a one-bedroom apartment and all worked a variety of jobs. A tireless worker, Nova was keen as a waitress and it was those skills that followed her from southern to northern California and San Francisco where she worked at the Spaghetti Kitchen. During this time, World War II broke out and both the War effort, and the influx of soldiers into San Francisco, would impact Nova for the rest of her life.

Nova met her future husband while working a shift at the Spaghetti Kitchen. At first sight, Nova thought Ralph Dodson was a “cute but short” sailor as he strolled into the restaurant. Ultimately his stature did not work against him and the two were married June 19, 1945. Ralph and Nova moved back to Oklahoma and Ralph’s hometown of Sulphur after the War. Married for 70 years, together they had five children, four girls and one boy.

Over time, Ralph became a respected and successful businessman and Nova

was a busy housewife and mother. With five children, parties at the Dodson's were frequent and frequently spontaneous. Many times, more than 50 kids would show up at the Dodson's following school activities, sports events and dates. Unflappable, Nova would have the boys bring sodas, the girls, chips, and she would somehow provide the rest of the food.

And, it is her skill as a cook that is both memorable and legendary.

Inspired by her time in San Francisco, Nova was fearless in the kitchen often introducing international foods to her family and their friends. Greek, African, Mexican and Italian food made its way to the Dodson dinner table on many occasions, and to this day, her recipes are prized possessions in many kitchens both near and far.

Despite the demands of her large family, somehow Nova found time to be a community volunteer.

Nova and a team of spirit-filled church volunteers put Sulphur on the map during the holidays when she came up with the idea for a fundraiser for the youth at her church. Known as Winter Wonderland, Nova and Ralph hosted a drive-through Christmas lights display on their property, featuring Disney characters and religious symbols culminating with the Nativity. Winter Wonderland gave the community a memorable holiday activity that remains in the hearts of those who remember the wonder and awe of driving through the display.

Nova is preceded in death by her parents, Neta and Lonnie Farris, her husband Ralph and seven of her eight sisters and her brother.

Nova is survived by all five of her beloved children, Sharon Kay Dodson and Nancy Love Robertson of Oklahoma City, Brenda Sue Dodson and Joe Landrum of Ada, Regina Gail Dodson and Joe Wells of Sulphur, Thomas Ralph Dodson of Sulphur, and Penny Lynn Dodson and Clyde Runyan of Mill Creek. Nova's family was blessed to have 10 grandchildren, Tre Landrum and his wife Ruth, Tanner Landrum and his wife Leslie; Coby Wells and his wife Bobbie Jo, Somer Wells Williams and her husband Adam, and Taylor Wells; Glenna and Johnny Howe, Tom Dodson and Maddison Dodson Gagliardi and

her husband Nick; Casey Runyan and his wife Tamara, and Chance (Bear) Runyan and his wife Lory. Rich in great grandchildren, Ralph and Nova had 18 of them. They are, Finley Landrum and Beck Landrum; Gatlin and Cobi Jo Wells, Daimron Ramsey, Kaitlyn, Kolby and Kayle Williams, Jordan Mims and Channing Coleman; Ralston, Rasey and Reagan Runyan; Paisley, Jett, Scout and Sutton Runyan, and Gunner Gagliardi.

Nova, it's your star we've hitched our wagons to, and it's your loving kindness and caring that we'll miss.

Services are Wednesday, October 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Dick Terry officiating assisted by Rev. Willard McCartney, Jr. Interment will follow in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be: Casey Runyan, Coby Wells, Tre Landrum, Bear Runyan, Tanner Landrum, Tommy Dodson

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the First Freewill Baptist Church or the Midway Hill Baptist Church.

Arrangements under the direction DeArman Funeral Home of Sulphur.
Online condolences may be sent to www.dearmanfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Service

OCT 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

first free will baptist church
1222 W Oklahoma Ave
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 622-2569

Tribute Wall



“ *Nova Jean Dodson*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Nova always had a sweet smile on her face, friendly to everyone and a pleasure to be around. She was a special lady.*

Phyllis Myers - October 11, 2017 at 11:48 PM