

Mary Diane (Covel) Benton, age 61, of McLoud, Oklahoma, passed away Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at her home in McLoud.

Mary was born July 1, 1964 in Shawnee, Oklahoma, a daughter of Charles A. and Judy (Brock) Covel. She was raised in the Macomb area attending school there until her senior year, graduating from Ninnakah High School. While in school, she was a skilled athlete, achieving awards in basketball, track, and softball. Sometime after high school, she met E.J. Benton. After a few years of dating, she married the love of her life on July 22, 1989 in Shawnee. Before she became unable to work, Mary was a receptionist for Gregory Pest Control in Shawnee and La Gear-Walkingstick insurance office in Chandler. Later, she co-owned the Now & Then Boutique. Her free time was spent amidst her passions that included going to concerts, riding dirt bikes and four wheelers, gardening, yard work, photography, making flower arrangements, and watching classic T.V. shows like Gunsmoke, M.A.S.H., and All In The Family. Additionally, she adored her dogs, Ripley & Jojo. Mary also adored her time at the lake with her family, riding jet skis and camping. A giving and generous heart was a foundational part of Mary's being. Her nieces and nephews affectionately called her "Aunt Money."

Survivors include her beloved husband E.J. of the home, sisters: Lori Clemens and husband Bryan of Newalla, Cinda Covel of Arcadia, OK, brother: Charles A. Covel of Norman, OK, nieces and nephews: Brandon Brown and wife Caitie of Broken Arrow, OK, Chance Clemens of Newalla, Kaci Kraft and husband Brian of Kingsland, TX, great nieces and nephews: Caidon Brown, Landen Tucker, Kylie Clemens, Cooper Clemens, Carter Clemens, Chloe Songer and husband Tyler, great-great nephew Conway Songer, and her best friend Hayley McLesky.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents and great niece Jady Carnes.

Casketbearers will be: Chance Clemens, Brandon Brown, Brian Kraft, Landon Tucker, Bruce McLesky, and Joseph Kersey.

In Loving Memory Of



**Mary Diane
Benton**

*July 1, 1964
January 20, 2026*

God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace be Thine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.



Honoring the Life of Mary Diane Benton

Date of Birth

July 1, 1964
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Entered into Rest

January 20, 2026
McLoud, Oklahoma

Funeral Ceremony

Saturday, January 31, 2026
Ten O'clock in the Morning
Walker Funeral Chapel
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Officiant

Larry Sparks

Entered into Rest

Calvary Cemetery
Shawnee, Oklahoma

