

Life Story

Ardella Vaughntella Cato, a beloved mother, sister, grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the age of 85.

Ardella was born on October 16, 1939, in Schulter, Oklahoma, to Thomas and Ida (Hollins) Tarwater. She graduated as valedictorian of her class from Schulter High School in 1958, a testament to her dedication and brilliance. Ardella's compassion and strong work ethic led her to a fulfilling career as a phlebotomist at Okmulgee Hospital and as a dedicated assistant to Dr.

Malati in Okmulgee, where she positively impacted the lives of many.

Ardella was a faithful and devoted member of Second Baptist Church of Okmulgee, where she found strength in her faith and actively participated in mission trips to Oregon, Colorado, and St. Louis. These trips were an expression of her deep commitment to serving others and spreading love and kindness.

She was passionate about many things in life. Ardella loved collecting owls, quilting, and sewing, creating beautiful, handmade pieces that will be cherished forever. A gifted cook, she was known for making the best food, which brought warmth and joy to every gathering. An avid reader, Ardella spent countless hours immersing herself in books, always seeking knowledge and new adventures. Above all, Ardella adored her grandchildren, and they were a constant source of joy and pride in her life.

Ardella is preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Ida Tarwater, and her brother, Danny Edward Tarwater.

She is survived by her children: Mark Allen Hawk and wife Kathy of Boston, Massachusetts; Ronald Lee Hawk and wife Catina of Mounds, Oklahoma; David Eric Hawk and wife Stephanie of Warner Robins, Georgia; Mary Ann Hawkins and husband Robert of Bixby, Oklahoma; Dawn Renee Militar and Tony of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and her siblings: Janet Raefield of Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Pat Wood of Mansfield, Texas; Karen and Jerry Henderson of Jenks, Oklahoma; and Robert and Elaine Tarwater of Schulter, Oklahoma as well as 24 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.

CELEBRATING *the wonderful life of*



Ardella Vaughntella Cato

October 16, 1939 - February 4, 2025



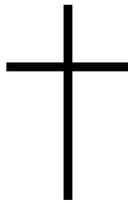
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“Footprints in the Sand”

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and
most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most,
You would leave me."
He whispered, "My precious child,
I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."



Ardella Vaughntella Cato

ENTERED INTO LIFE

October 16, 1939

Henryetta, Oklahoma

ENTERED INTO REST

February 4, 2025

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

11:00 AM Thursday, February 5, 2025

Second Baptist Church of Okmulgee

OFFICIANT

Pastor Adam Heitt

