

William Richard "Bill" Mitchell, age 94, of Shawnee, Oklahoma, passed away Saturday, March 15, 2025 in Shawnee.

Bill was born December 3, 1930 on a share-cropper's farm in Midlothian, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, a son of Thomas and Nancy "Elizabeth" (Gregg) Mitchell. He was raised in the area, attending school at White Rock before graduating from Chandler High School. Following high school, he married his first love, Dorothy Miller in 1949. They were married for nearly 50 years before her passing in 1998. Later, he earned his Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University, then his Master's degree from Boston University in Massachusetts, and PhD at the University of Oklahoma. His graduate studies at Boston were interrupted by his call to military service in Korea. From 1958 until his retirement in 1996, Bill was a professor and academic dean at Oklahoma Baptist University. After retirement, Bill was able to pursue his desire to focus more on writing. Furthermore, he was ordained to the ministry and has served in churches in Colorado and Oklahoma. In his retirement years, after Dorothy died, Bill met Dora Mae Tacker and they were married in 1998 until her passing in December of 2024.

As an accomplished author and poet, Bill has had his poetry published in several literary magazines and anthologies. He has also written and published articles and short stories. As a playwright, Dr. Mitchell has written "Tilghman", performed in Chandler, Oklahoma and at Shawnee Little Theater, "Cloud of Witnesses," performed during OBU's Centennial Celebration and "To Venture, To Prevail" celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Wiley Post, performed at the Air and Space Museum in Oklahoma City. Some of his other works include his poems in *Voices of the Advent: A Collection of Christmas Poems* and *Benedictions: Collected Poems 1950-2024*. His poems have been anthologized in *Adam Among the Television Trees*, *The Country of The Risen King*, and *Dry Bones Anthology 2000*. Some of the novels Bill has written are *In Earthen Vessels*, *Hiding Amy*, and *My Home, For Now*. He wrote non-fiction, as well, including *My Life Before the Fire*, *Trying to Teach Like Jesus: Essays and Addresses on Christian Higher Education*, *Running with the Horses: Living the Gospel*, *The Legacy of Thomas Wesley Mitchell*, and *How To Write Better Poetry Without Much Help*. Bill's wit and wisdom will live on in his writings.

Survivors include his children: Daniel R. Mitchell and wife Jeri of Maud, Oklahoma, Janet Proodian and husband John of Columbus, Ohio, and daughter-in-law Denise Mitchell of Dayton, Ohio, stepson: Jim Tacker and wife Dana of Oklahoma City, grandchildren: Meredith Keith and husband Jon of Erie, Colorado, David W. Mitchell of Houston, TX, Merrick McGuire and wife Tracey of Edmond, Oklahoma, David Proodian, and Elena Proodian both of Columbus, Ohio, Jordan Tacker, Joshua Tacker, and Phillip Tacker all of Oklahoma City, and 5 great grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy (Miller) Mitchell, wife Dora Mae (Tacker) Mitchell, son Michael Mitchell, stepdaughter Tammara Tacker, as well as his siblings: Thomas Mitchell, Hudon Mitchell, Mary Margaret Winkler, and John Rex Mitchell.

The family wishes to provide a special thank you to Heartland Hospice, Primrose Nursing Center, and his care giver, Glenda Ellison.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Mitchell English Scholarship or Thomas & Elizabeth Mitchell Memorial Scholarship c/o OBU University Advancement, 500 West University Street, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804 or www.okbu.edu/giving/



In Loving Memory Of
William Richard "Bill" Mitchell

December 3, 1930 — March 15, 2025

Benediction

*Let there be light in all the nightmare places,
in the millrace of license, in the stifled room;
let there be joy in starved and leaden faces,
in charred or sodden furrows, where no tears bloom.*

*Where stumbling feet,
where fumbling hands are groping
against the scope of silence,
in dumb primordial caves,
let chords of morning stars bring prised hoping,
and sing far up the slope,
where mind blinds out and raves.*

*Say for me, God, their blessing I am seeking;
Lord, decree for them the sun, and Jesus speak aright
my scattered syllables;
for past my yearning, past my speaking,
I have been stammering, let there be light.*

By: William R. Mitchell



Bill Mitchell

Date of Birth
December 3, 1930
Midlothian, Oklahoma

Entered Into Rest
March 15, 2025
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Funeral Ceremony
Friday, March 21, 2025
Ten O'clock in the Morning
Walker Funeral Chapel
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Officiant
Pastor Jon Keith
Valley Community Church
Erie, Colorado

Final Resting Place
Resthaven Memorial Park
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Casketbearers

Joshua Tacker	David Mitchell
Phillip Tacker	David Proodian
Merrick McGuire	Corbett Watts

Military Honors
The United States Army