



## Gwendolyn A. Sterr

December 6, 1917 - January 26, 2012

Gwen was born in Weatherford, Texas in Parker County on December 6, 1917 to William and Matilda Lynn. Gwen was the youngest of three children with her sister Alice and her brother Bob. William was a telegraph operator for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. Shortly after Gwen's birth, he was assigned to the railroad depot in Lindsay, Oklahoma.

Gwen attended both Lindsay elementary and Lindsay high school. After graduating, she attended college at the Oklahoma College for Women (OCW) in Chickasha Oklahoma for two years. As Gwen's intended major was journalism, she transferred to Oklahoma University and graduated with a degree in journalism in 1940.

Gwen married her childhood sweet heart Paul Sterr in 1940. Paul was also a Lindsay resident and they had grown up only a few blocks apart. Gwen and Paul settled in Kettle Falls, Washington. Paul opened a grocery store with his brother Fritz in Kettle Falls and Paul also worked in construction on the Grand Coulee Dam. While on a trip from Kettle falls to Lindsay, they stopped in Amarillo and heard the news about the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Paul decided to enlist in the navy.

Gwen continued to live in Lindsay while Paul served in the Pacific theater with Naval intelligence. At war's end, Gwen and Paul moved to San Benito, Texas

and began vegetable farming. In 1949, Gwen gave birth to William in Harlingen, Texas. The same year, freak weather phenomena brought freezing weather to the Rio Grande valley and wiped out all of the crops. Gwen and Paul moved back to Lindsay and Paul began farming. In 1951 their second child Theresa was born in Chickasha. As farming is a hard scrabble life, money was short. Gwen returned to OCW and earned a teaching degree. Gwen was then employed as a third grade elementary school teacher in the Lindsay public school system for many years.

With the added income from teaching and Paul's acquiring a farm supply business, both Gwen and Paul were able to lead a comfortable life in their later years. Gwen and Paul traveled throughout central and South America studying Meso American cultures such as the Inca and Maya. Paul was called home to our creator in 2004. Gwen went home to be with the Lord on January 26, 2012. She was preceded in her journey by her sister Alice and brother Bob. Gwen is survived by William and Terri as well as three grandchildren, Jessica, Carolina and Emily. William and his spouse Yaney presently live in Katy, Texas, and Terri and her spouse Ralph live in Georgetown, Texas.

A memorial service was held for Gwen on Monday, January 30th, 2012 at ten o'clock a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Lindsay, Oklahoma with Rev. Ron King officiating. The service was under the direction of B.G. Boydston Funeral Home of Lindsay, Oklahoma. Condolences for the family may be made online at [www.boydstonfuneralhome.com](http://www.boydstonfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ Mrs. Sterr was my third grade teacher also. She was so kind, but ratted me out to my mom. I sat on the back row and couldn't see ANYTHING on the board. She was quick to notice and I had my first pair of glasses! She was one reason that I became a teacher. A wonderful lady that gave me wonderful memories.<br>

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**Annie (Bucko) Horton** - March 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I remember Mrs. Sterr quite well. Her and her husband traded with our family at our service station. Even though I wasn't in Mrs. Sterr's class, she knew me and always said hello. She was a wonderful lady and I was sad to hear of her passing.

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**Britt Simms** - February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Mrs. Sterr was my third grade teacher and one of my favorite teachers at Lindsay Elementary. I also loved how during Halloween back when I was young, she would dress up as a witch and hand out candy from her garage with a witch's kettle boiling! She was a great teacher! She will be missed! <br>

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**Laurie Jones Akins Jaster** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ way too many memories go cart on a dirt track paid for with old shoes mr sims charging my gaS TO PAUL STERR BECAUSE I looked like bill it worked for a while i know ur loss and u just need to remember how sweet ur mom was a+++++ super lady

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**david carruth** - February 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Bill and Terri, what a blessing it was to know your mother. She will certainly be missed but never forgotten.

Michele Branch Walck - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Terri and Bill,  
I was sorry to hear about your loss. I remember Gwen well. My your memories of her bring you comfort.

Lisa Curry Smith - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Bill & Terri...One of my favorite memories as a child is playing in your Dad & Mom's barn while my Mom & Dad visited with them. Gwen was a lady & one of the sweetest ones I ever knew. After visiting with her in the later years...I always left thinking how much better the world would be with more of Gwen's love & kindness that she gave so freely.

Lisa Sawyer Smith - February 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Terri and Bill, I don't know if you know that Gwen is my Godmother. Although I have not seen her in years, she has always been very special to me. I have a beautiful locket that she gave to me when I was very young, I think of her lovingly everytime I look at it. My love and prayers.

Mary Lou Miller Presley - February 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ Bill, Terri & families, my heart and prayers go out to you, in the loss of your dear Mother and Grandmother. Gwen was and is forever, my favorite Aunt. There can never be anyone as loved, sweet and special as she was. Gwen has joined her beloved Paul & together they are watching over their loved family.

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**Mary McBride (Sawyer)** - February 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Terri and Bill <br><br>I want you to know that the Winton Family is praying for you and wish you our deepest sympathy for the loss of Gwen, she was a wonderful lady who we all thought the world of .

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**Gary Winton** - January 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Our thoughts are with you and yours Teri at your time of loss. May God bless you family.

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**Danny Thornton** - January 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Terri & Bill. I'm very sorry to hear about your Mom. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Jim Roop** - January 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Bill and Terri: My condolences and prayers are with you at this difficult time

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**Lan Thompson** - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

S(

“ I am so sorry to hear about your mother. She was such a sweet Great Aunt. She was so sweet and nice. I have many fond memories of her. She lived a great life.

Shirley Self (McBride) - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Please know we are thinking of you and remembering all the happy times together. Gwen was a beautiful and gentle woman who will always be remembered with much love.

Phyllis Shannon, Mike Shannon and Elaine Shannon B - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Terri & Bill, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I have fond memories of your mother. She was a special lady.

Judy Childers - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Terri and Bill..Your mom was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known. Hers was a life well lived..I know you will miss her. You will be in my prayers in the days to come.

Janet Sinclair Janousek - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Bill and Teri and family.I enjoyed working with such a  
<br>precious lady.I will miss her.Our loss is Heavens gain.You will always be in my prayers.

Joyce Sainz - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mrs. Sterr was my third grade teacher. It was sitting in her room that our cless watched the first man on the moon. She said it was a day we would never forget. She always had a sweet smile and was kind to everyone, young or old. What a privilege and honor it was to know her...she will be missed.

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**(Author Not Available)** - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Terri and Bill and families. I am so sorry to hear about your sweet mom. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God keep you in His care.

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**Cynthia Terry Malicoat** - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM