



Dorothy Louise Reed

October 21, 1925 - December 31, 2025

Dorothy Louise Reed, 100, of Fayetteville, AR passed away Wednesday December 31, 2025. She was born October 21, 1925 in Red Oak, Oklahoma to Oliver P Brewer and Leona Fields Brewer.

Dorothy was married to James G Ryan Jr in 1944 until his death in 1979. Later in life she married Edwin Reed, who shared her many interests.

Dorothy earned a degree in Library Sciences. She was devoted to her family. She loved to travel and make memories. She was adored by everyone who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, and daughter, Annette Gilbert.

She is survived by her 2 younger sisters, Linda Kitchens of Sallisaw, Ok, and Patsy Benson of Tempe, AZ, her son, Greg (Dawn) Ryan of Nacogdoches, TX, Grandchildren Amy (Jerome) Poncet of Portland, OR, Sara Ryan of San Antonio, TX, Nick (Rachael) Ryan of Hot Springs, AR, Kary (John) Crile of Decatur, AR, James (Jessie) Gilbert of Gentry, AR, Tristan Ryan of Nacogdoches, TX, Jasmine (Hector) Vela of Madisonville, TX, and Brianna Ryan of Nacogdoches, TX and 7 great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

A memorial and burial of cremated remains will be held at a later date in Red Oak Cemetery, Red Oak, Oklahoma.

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Keri (Divine) - April 11 at 12:25 PM

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“ I met Dorothy in the fall of 2022 when I was about 8 weeks pregnant with my daughter. When she found out I was pregnant she made sure to tell me that I needed to be careful and get someone to help the both of us to not harm the baby. Every day she would me “How is the baby this morning?” until I found out I was having a girl and it turned to “How is little Ila this morning?” Dorothy was really involved in my pregnancy. She wanted to know every detail and she asked me to bring ultrasound pictures (of course I did). Butterfiled held a baby shower for me and she had gifted me my daughter’s very first dress! (I still have it)

I went on maternity leave for about 7 months and when I came back to work I couldn’t wait for her wake up so I could go see her. I quietly entered her room got her pink coffee mug filled it with coffee (one cream and one sugar). I brought it back and said “Good morning Dorothy, I brought you some coffee!” She was still waking but with a smile on her face she said “Good morning!” when she realized who she was seeing she nearly jumped out of bed saying “Hey! It’s you! How is little Ila? I need to see some pictures!” We sat for a while as I shared pictures and videos of the first few months of my daughter’s life. I would bring Ila up from time to time to visit with Dorothy and the other residents of Butterfiled but Dorothy enjoyed Ila’s company the most (often giving Ila candy which of course Ila loved)

I loved helping Dorothy pick out her outfits for the day (she had such style!) we would go through 4 or 5 different options some days and some days she wanted to be casual with her sweatpants and her pink sweater and every Sunday she would stay in her nightgown. We would spend time playing WordScapes on her tablet, she would complete half a level the night before and I would come back the next day and help with the rest of the words. We enjoyed doing this together and we certainly learned a lot of new words together!

Dorothy touched my heart in such a way that I couldn’t even begin to explain. I was in the rough of postpartum depression but I would remind myself “Dorothy is nearly 100 and she still brushes her teeth, gets out of bed, puts her face on and takes on the day. What is my

excuse?" Her love and kindness towards me and my daughter genuinely helped me through some of my most difficult days. I loved Dorothy as if she was my own grandmother and during the last few weeks of her life she made sure to tell me everyday that she loved me and Ila dearly, she even kissed me on the forehead and told me "It's my time, don't cry please I lived a full life and you have been wonderful."

Losing Dorothy weighs heavily on my heart but I know she is watching over us with a cup of coffee in hand and a smile on her face. The sound of her laughter echos in my ears and the love she gave lives in my heart.

Rest in Peace Dorothy, until next time. ❤️

-Keri Stival (Divine)

Keri (Divine) - April 11 at 12:20 PM

DC

“ I had the honor to care for Dorothy for 2 1/2 yrs. at Butterfield trail village a couple days a week and what a joy it was to know her! The good times we had getting to know each other! We both LOVED COFFEE! ha. Dorothy loved it when she was able to get out. Most Friday's we would get on the Butterfield bus & go to Walmart, Barnes & Noble, then go eat lunch at the Bistro! She was a hoot and so much to be with! I will treasure the memories close to my heart! Love & prayers are with all the family!

Diane Collins - April 02 at 09:28 AM

AP

“ Dorothy was a very special lady, and her sense of humor and wit always made her a joy to be around. We felt very lucky to have shared fun times, stories, (and evening Scrabble games) with her and friends. Sending our deepest sympathy." Ann and Peter

Ann and Peter - February 04 at 05:08 PM



“ *I helped care for Miss Dorothy. I'm sorry for your loss. She will definitely be missed* ”

Tonya Tabor - January 13 at 04:07 AM