



Alycen Ridgway Yoder

October 10, 1937 - January 29, 2025

Alycen Maxwell Ridgway Yoder was born on October 10, 1937 and passed away on January 29, 2025 at the age of 87 years, three months, and 19 days. Her parents were Evelyn Florence Baum and Marshall Rhodes Maxwell and her younger sisters were Ruth Ann and Lucille Idella.

She attended Alva High School, graduating as Valedictorian in 1956. She then attended Northwestern State College, earning a Bachelor of Education degree in 1959. She received her Master's Degree with an emphasis in English in 2003.

She married Max Lee Ridgway on February 8, 1957 and to this union three children were born: Max Alan, Marsha Lynn, and Michael Curtis. Max and Alycen enjoyed 40 years of marriage until his unexpected death in 1997. Alycen then returned to college to work on her Masters degree and it was during this time she renewed her acquaintance with a former high school classmate, Lawrence Yoder of Shattuck. They were married on December 24, 2002 and enjoyed seven years together until his death in 2009.

She taught piano lessons from her home for most of her adult life and served for many years as organist for the First United Methodist Church in Alva. She was also active in several church and community clubs including United Methodist Women (UMW), Hannah Circle, Chapter C of the P.E.O., Meals on Wheels, the Walkie-Talkies, Peace by Piece Quilting Guild, and the Nescatunga Arts Festival board. In 2018 she was honored to be chosen as a Distinguished Goldbug by the Alva Goldbug Education Foundation.

She is preceded in death by her father and mother, Marshall and Florence Maxwell, her husband Max Lee Ridgway and second husband, Lawrence Yoder, and by her sister, Ruth Ann Gatz. She is survived by her sister, Lucille Rhodes of Alva, her children and their spouses, Max and April Ridgway of Alva, Marsha and Glen McMillin of Kansas City, Mike and Brenda Ridgway of Stillwater, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donations in her memory can be made to the First United Methodist Church of Alva.

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

1698 Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wharton Funeral Chapel, LLC.
1302 W. Oklahoma Boulevard
Alva, OK 73717

Celebration of Life

FEB 1. 3:30 PM (CT)

Alva First United Methodist
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Wharton Funeral Chapel - January 31, 2025 at 07:26 PM



“ *Wharton Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Alycen Ridgway Yoder*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - January 31, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ *Wharton Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Alycen Ridgway Yoder*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - January 31, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ *There are many souls greeting her in Heaven! She was such a beautiful sweet soul and I will never forget her beautiful smile with much love!*

Deanna Fay - January 31 at 03:57 PM



“ *Kathryn Walters Racette lit a candle in memory of Alycen Ridgway Yoder*



Kathryn Walters Racette - February 11, 2025 at 09:26 PM



“ *You will be missed Ms. Alycen. Hugs to your family and sister, Lucy*



Linda/Bill Beeler - February 02, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Alycen Ridgway Yoder.*

February 02, 2025 at 08:45 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alycen Ridgway Yoder.*



February 02, 2025 at 08:45 AM



“ 42 files added to the album *Alycen Memories Album*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - January 31, 2025 at 07:26 PM



“ As a member of the *First United Methodist Church*, I spent many Sundays growing up in Alva listening to Alycen play the organ and piano. She was the essence of grace and just a lovely person. She will be missed by the church and community for her many talents and by her presence.

Tena Lehr Floeter - January 31, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Alycen's family. She was such a talented person and will be truly missed by all who knew her.

Tom and Sherry Ramy



Sherry Ramy - January 30, 2025 at 06:36 PM

DC

“ Alycen was a beautiful soul who will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. I loved to hear her play the organ as she did such a beautiful job. Heaven has gained a wonderful new angel and Earth has lost a beautiful lady. I pray that God will give the family comfort in the knowledge that she is now in Heaven and peace in the knowledge that her pain and suffering have ended.

Donise Cinnamon - January 30, 2025 at 04:54 PM

DC

I'm the daughter of Don Sterba and Vera (Schwerdtfeger) Sterba

Donise Cinnamon - January 30, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alycen Ridgway Yoder.



January 30, 2025 at 11:58 AM

CB

“ Chris & Marsha Baumann purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Alycen Ridgway Yoder.



Chris & Marsha Baumann - January 30, 2025 at 09:44 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Alycen Ridgway Yoder.*



January 30, 2025 at 08:30 AM



“ *Mark Kinzie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Alycen Ridgway Yoder.*



Mark Kinzie - January 30, 2025 at 07:25 AM

DS

“ It’s so hard to believe Alyson is gone. She taught me, my brother (Marek Greer), my sister (Brenda Van Zandt), & my son Marek Payton Stein to play the piano. My brother loved it so much he took piano lessons through college until he started working on his medical degree at OU. Alyson and my mother also attended NWOSU at the same time, with my mother being 2 yrs younger than Alyson. Marsha and I were good friends in high school and college room mates several times. Alyson played at our wedding too. When Jim and I moved back to Alva in 1997, Alyson became one of our customers in our landscape business. She helped us so much with referrals when we were getting our business up & going. It was so nice to know her as an adult, in addition to being our piano teacher. As a married adult we were confidantes a couple of times. She helped me greatly one time when I sought her advice, and I returned the favor one time. We respected each other and valued the other’s opinion & friendship. Thank you Alyson. I needed your help at that time and you were a big help to me then. Every time I came home to Alva, I always knew she was there on the corner in her house. It was such a good feeling. Oh the memories.....
I know she’s happy in heaven with family & friends, but she is & will be missed in Alva. Prayers for her family and friends. Jimmy & Diana Stein

Diana Stein - January 30, 2025 at 01:07 AM