



## Grace Whitson

August 3, 1926 - April 3, 2013

Grace Carol was born August 3, 1926, in Alva, Oklahoma to Howard L. and Lucie K. (Floyd) Nighswonger and was raised on the family farm northwest of Alva.

Elementary school was Greenleaf School, a one room country schoolhouse, where she skipped 3rd grade because she was the only one in that class. She moved into town and stayed with her Aunt Grace and Uncle Ed Van Anterp so she could attend high school. After graduation she attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

At a sorority dance she met William (Bill) Whitson, who was stationed in Alva with the Army Air Corp, since this was during World War II. When he was transferred to the base in El Reno Grace enrolled at Oklahoma State University to be closer to him. She finished her sophomore year there, after Bill was shipped overseas. When the war ended, they were married July 21, 1945, at the home of her Aunt Grace and Uncle Ed.

They left Oklahoma to live in Arlington, Virginia where Bill was from. After he got an accounting degree on the GI Bill, Grace and Bill moved to Alexandria, Virginia where she resided until 2006.

Four children were born to them, Kathryn Floyd, Rebecca Anne, Richard

Layton, and William Stuart. Bill died in March of 1980.

In 2000, Grace became an invalid due to chemical poisoning and in 2006 she moved back to Alva to be closer to her family there. She died at her home in Alva April 3, 2013 at the age of 86 years and 8 months.

Grace was an avid reader, loved to do crossword puzzles, and could be packed and ready to go somewhere in 5 minutes. She went to Europe several times. She loved anything chocolate, enjoyed knitting, crocheting and sewing. She loved making intricate felt Christmas ornaments to give everyone at Christmas. Family was very important.

She attended Washington Street United Methodist Church in Alexandria and was very active in the Hal Fisher Sunday School Class.

She is survived by her children, Kathryn Frech and husband Jerry of Woodward, Oklahoma, Rebecca Glass of Woodford, Virginia, Richard Whitson and wife Margie of Salt Lake City Utah, and Stuart Whitson and wife Temple of Alexandria, Virginia; her brother, Paul Nighswonger and his wife Elaine of Alva, and a special family friend Rich Lee of Woodford, Virginia. Her grandchildren are Heidi Vanlandingham and husband David of Yukon, Oklahoma, Susan Sims and husband Wesley of Woodward, Oklahoma, Kathleen Berry and husband Michael of Choctaw, Oklahoma, Rachel Creamer and husband Arrick of Tunnel Hill Georgia, Ian Whitson and Elizabeth Vanlandingham of Alexandria, Virginia. Her twelve great grandchildren are Connor and Rylan Vanlandingham, Michael and Kyle Sims, Dallas, Syler, Boston and Gracen Berry, and McKai, Nathaniel, Liora and Aliya Creamer, plus several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She will be truly missed.

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# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Your beautiful mother epitomizes her name of Grace. Her gentle, thoughtful ways touched our lives with radiant beauty and joy. How blessed we are to have her in ours hearts' memories. May peace and love be with each of you, enfolding you in love.*

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**Jill Smithson** - April 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Kitty, Becky, Rick and Stuart,*

*I am very sorry to hear that your mother passed. She was a wonderful person and my one and only aunt who I loved very much. My childhood time spent at your house was always a great time-- baseball, crack the whip, flashlight tag, tennis, swimming, chess, and blueberry pancakes in the morning. I hope all are well and I wish you the best.*

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**Bill Smithson** - April 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ *It has been an honor to talk with Grace. Her wisdom pride & understanding was amazing. God family & country. ALVA was blessed to have Grace in our town. Kind & caring. Grace showed me that returning to ALVA. Is where we want to live Instead of having to be here i have a great husband & kids. Thinking forward.Grace helped me. see i was making myself unhappy . I am so thankful to Grace for helping me*

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**Rose** - April 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM