



Zelda Darlene Holtzclaw

October 22, 1928 - January 26, 2025

Zelda Darlene Holtzclaw, 96, passed away peacefully at Share Medical Center in Alva, Oklahoma on January 26, 2025. Darlene was a 70-year resident of Alva, who with her husband John, operated Holtzclaw's Jewelry two doors east of the Rialto Theater for nearly 40 of those years. Darlene, or Zelda, as many of her close friends knew her, was preceded in death by her husband in 2009. She is survived by her son Mark Holtzclaw and his wife Joyce of Keene, California, and her grandson Bradley Holtzclaw of Tulsa — she will be deeply missed by her family and all that knew her.

The only child of Perry and Fannie Francis Enochs, Darlene was born in Bristow, Oklahoma on October 22, 1928. It was during the Great Depression, a dire time in rural Oklahoma. Darlene told stories of indigent school children and vagabonds from nearby trains coming to their home seeking food, which was never denied. Darlene learned at an early age God's grace of sharing the family's good fortune with those less fortunate. Darlene enjoyed the oil camps, she enjoyed talking with the workers and migrants, and she greatly enjoyed learning to drive at the age of twelve helping to take her dad to work in the Kiefer & Glen Pool Oil Fields. Darlene never forgot those early years: she loved hearing the rhythmic clank of pumpjacks, she loved seeing trains, and as her many friends know, driving her cars was a lifelong passion.

Darlene attended high school in Sapulpa, Oklahoma where she met her future husband in the band. John, like so many other young men, dropped out of school in 1942 to enlist in the military. On his return from the Pacific War, the

couple married and the newlyweds moved to Chicago where John attended school to study watch and jewelry repair while Darlene worked nights as a telephone operator. After apprenticeships in Montana and Colorado, John and Darlene moved to Alva in 1954 and started Holtzclaw's Jewelry.

Throughout the years, Holtzclaw's Jewelry provided outstanding service to the residents of Alva and Woods County. Darlene's tireless efforts contributed greatly to the business's success. She resolutely supported her husband, doing whatever was necessary to run a small-town business, all while taking care of her family. Her personalized customer service was exceptional, she always treated people with respect and consideration.

From the 60's through the 80's, Holtzclaw's employed many young ladies from the local high school and college. Known as the 'Holtzclaw Girls', Darlene developed strong, personal relationships with these young ladies, relationships that she maintained until her death, she considered them as her family.

Darlene supported a number of local service organizations and in later years volunteered her time at the Share Medical Center, for which she received Alva's 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award. Darlene was a devout Christian and member of the First United Methodist Church of Alva She was particularly fond of her Sunday School Class and greatly enjoyed the friendship of the many church members.

Darlene lived a sensible life and did so with joy. She rose early, worked hard, and loved her family, and many friends. Quick to laugh, she was also quick to lend a hand or ear. Her family is happy that she passed on to her next life pretty much the way she wanted — living independently and driving her cars well into her 90's.

Funeral service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Alva at 11:00am, Friday, January 31,, 2025. Private family burial will follow under the direction of Wharton Funeral Chapel. In leu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made through the Wharton Funeral Chapel to the Alva Education Foundation (make checks to CFO), Northwestern Foundation, or the First

United Methodist Church. Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.whartonfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

1698 Flynn Street
Alva Municipal Cemetery, OK 73717

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **29**. 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

JAN **30**. 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

JAN **31**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Alva First United Methodist
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Wharton Funeral Chapel - January 31, 2025 at 07:25 PM



“ *Wharton Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Zelda Darlene Holtzclaw*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - January 31, 2025 at 07:24 PM

LB

“ *Darlene was so sweet. Loved her very much. She never forgot that Bill had found her mother in insulin shock at the house when he was making a service call many years ago. A small gesture for him, but a huge one for her. Always kind, wanting to know how you were doing. She had so many that loved her. Could not be at your service as Bill was having some surgery done. Love to Mark and her special Holtzclaw Girls.*

Linda/Bill Beeler - February 02, 2025 at 04:33 PM

DS

“Darlene was exactly as described in this memorial. She was so nice, happy, & hardworking. I loved to go into the jewelry store in high school & college. She wrapped the most gorgeous packages with satin ribbon for roses! Yrs later, I finally took one out of my wedding lace bow bag and took it apart to figure out how she did it! lol I too have a passion for beautiful packages and can make gorgeous bows as big as the package.

When Jim & I moved to GA in 1989, my jeweler there told me he knew John and used to buy diamonds & jewelry from John for yrs. The Holtzclaws were well known in other states for beautiful & quality jewelry.

After Jim & I moved back to Alva inn1997 and started our landscape business, Darlene & John were our customers. We loved them both. Church was also a great time to see them on Sundays! Our prayers go out to their family K friends.

Jim & Diana Stein

Diana Stein - January 30, 2025 at 12:50 AM

DC

“There was and is not jewelry store like Holtzclaw's. I was sad when they closed their doors. It was nice to go in there and engage with Mr. and Mrs. Holtzclaw. She was a lovely lady and he was a gentleman. I am sure that they are enjoying being reunited in Heaven. My condolences to her family and friends. I am sorry for your loss and I am praying that you will find peace and comfort in the days to come. God Bless. Donise (Sterba) Cinnamon



Donise Cinnamon - January 29, 2025 at 07:19 PM

VS

The closing of Holtzclaw's was such a loss for Alva & surrounding area. John & Darlene gave a sincere warm welcome to their customers! May the hearts of family & friends be warmed with special memories of both John & Darlene.

Vaughna Schmidt - January 29, 2025 at 07:33 PM

JG

“*Darlene was the sweetest lady..... loved visiting with her at the Jewelry store, I know she was loved by many..Bless her family.*”

Jane Gaskill - January 28, 2025 at 02:35 PM