



## Shirley Ray Cummings

March 18, 1940 - November 6, 2023

Shirley Ray Fitzer was born March 18, 1940, to Raymond (Judge) Fitzer and Myrtle (Pulse) Fitzer in the Lona Valley community of Haskell County, OK. She attended school in Kinta, where her family owned a grocery store. After graduating high school in 1958, she married Billy Harold Cummings on June 2 of that year, making their home in Fort Gibson, where Billy was teaching school. On their first anniversary, their first son, Blake, was born. Three years later, David was born, and the family moved back to Kinta soon after.

Shirley was a homemaker for many years, looking after her boys and her husband. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation, as her father was an original Dawes Commission enrollee. She became very active in the Choctaw culture and served for many years as a Board member of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority, appointed by Chief Hollis Roberts. Current Choctaw Chief Gary Batton was a young intern when Shirley was a board member, and she maintained close ties with the Choctaws and Chief Batton the rest of her life. She was always proud of her native Choctaw heritage. Her home was adorned with native American art, and she was so proud of the tribal facilities in Haskell County and attended many tribal events over the years. She counts her opportunity to see President Obama address Choctaw citizens in Durant in 2015 as one of her favorite moments.

In her later years, after Billy retired, they would spend lots of time visiting friends, going to Branson, and especially spending quality time with their granddaughter Abigail. Every year seemed to bring them closer together with

more fun things to do.

Shirley saw more than her share of loss in her life. When she was a toddler, her older brother Joel passed away at 19. Her brother Joe died when Shirley was 31, then she lost her younger brother Larry when she was 36. Her mother passed when Shirley was in her early 40s, then she helped take care of her widowed father in his final years. He passed away in 1992 when Shirley was 52.

Billy had a stroke in 2015, which led to dementia, and was confined in a nursing home for almost 5 years, with Shirley visiting him almost every day. Blake and wife Donna took Billy to their home in Seminole County in late 2019, just before Covid. Shirley was relieved that Billy was finally back home in a sense and came to visit him regularly until his passing in April 2022. Until Shirley had an accidental fall on July 1, 2023, she was one of the most vibrant, healthy 83-year-old women anywhere. She loved dancing, working in her flower garden, visiting kids and grandkids, and had a special love for Everlynn, her only great grandchild. She was always buying clothes for Miss Ever and enjoyed their visits. She had a positive effect on everyone she met and will be missed greatly. We take great pride in knowing that she is back with her husband and her immediate family. What a reunion!

She is survived by her 2 sons, Blake Cummings and wife Donna of Maud, David Cummings of Stigler; 3 grandchildren, Abby Cummings of Shawnee, Billy Peixotta and Kolisha of Seminole, Paulette Vong and Andrew of Shawnee; 6 great grandchildren, Dylan, Jillian, Lauren, Nolen, Keifer, Everlynn. She is preceded in death by her parents, Judge and Myrtle Fitzer; her husband, Billy Harold Cummings; 2 brothers, Joe and Larry Fitzer; one sister, Sybil Brown.

Funeral services will be 2:00 P.M. Monday, November 13, 2023 at Faith Community Church with Reverend Bill Fitzer officiating. Pallbearers include DeWayne Farriell, Keith Hall, Elden King, Johnny Patterson, Billy Peixotto, Kyle Champion. Honorary Pallbearers David Burgess, OJ Fouch, Gary Reasnor, Glen Rogers, Gary Tucker.



# Previous Events

## Viewing

NOV **11.** 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

R.E. SHEARWOOD MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
808 EAST MAIN  
STIGLER, OK  
(918) 967-0044  
kingwood4@sbcglobal.net  
<http://KINGANDSHEARWOODFUNERALHOME.COM>

## Viewing

NOV **12.** 12:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

R.E. Shearwood Memorial Chapel

## Service

NOV **13.** 2:00 PM (CT)

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH  
10954 W. HWY 9  
WHITEFIELD, OK 74472  
(918) 967-2554

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Sandra Bowers lit a candle in memory of Shirley Cummings*



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**Sandra Bowers** - November 17, 2023 at 11:05 AM

LS

“ *I remember when Shirley, Bill, Blake and David moved across the road from us. We were small kids and I have so many memories of the Cummings family. I remember the first time I saw Shirley I thought she was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. She looked like someone right out of a magazine! Blake, David and I used to play together every day. The family were such good neighbors! My hair was almost to my waist and it was so thick and my Mom wanted to get my hair cut but my Dad said no. Mama talked Shirley into cutting my hair real short because it was so hard to take care of. My Dad was so mad when he came home that night and I thought it was going to cause a divorce. He finally forgave them! Every time I would see Shirley she would bring that up! Shirley was a wonderful and beautiful lady inside and out! I wish I could be with Blake and David during this time but I had knee surgery and not able to attend the funeral! I just want Blake and David know my thoughts and prayers are with all the family during this time!*



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**Linda Shaffer** - November 13, 2023 at 09:43 AM

MG

“ *Marty Greco lit a candle in memory of Shirley Cummings*



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**Marty Greco** - November 12, 2023 at 02:53 PM

DF

“ *Dana Farriell lit a candle in memory of Shirley Cummings*



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**Dana Farriell** - November 10, 2023 at 06:50 AM

NP

“ *I remember Shirley from way back in our high school days. She was always beautiful, friendly and gracious. Recently, I remember how she showed her pride in her Choctaw heritage. She almost always had on some tasteful Indian inspired clothing and/or jewelry. My heartfelt sympathy to the family. Nancy Powell*

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**Nancy Powell** - November 09, 2023 at 10:25 AM

RM

*I can't believe she gone we were good friends we played together after school in her barn we were in same grade and same age after I moved back from TX we keep in touch on phone I will miss her so much, we have had some really good times, my heart goes out to the family. Rip Shirley your friend Rosetta Snow Moore*

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**Rosetta snow moore** - November 10, 2023 at 12:29 AM

RD

“ *Ronald Doby lit a candle in memory of Shirley Cummings*



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**Ronald Doby** - November 06, 2023 at 08:49 PM

RD

*Shirley was a friend to our family for many years. Shirley was a kind and graceful lady. Her Native American heritage was one of her amazing traits. Fly high my friend !*

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**Ronald Doby** - November 09, 2023 at 07:30 PM

RD

*Love and prayers to all her family.*

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**Ronald Doby** - November 09, 2023 at 07:33 PM