



## Betty Louise (Gabbard) Thompson

August 18, 1939 - October 28, 2025

Betty Louise (Gabbard) Thompson, age 86, went to be with her Lord and Savior after a long fight with breast cancer on October 28, 2025.

Betty was born in Pryor, Oklahoma, and grew up in Afton. Throughout her life, she lived in several communities, including Vinita, Oklahoma, and Pharr, Texas, where she shared a home with her son and daughter-in-law, Ivett, before returning to Miami, Oklahoma, where she spent her final years.

Betty dedicated her career to caring for others as a mental health aide, home health aide, and nursing home caregiver. Her true passion, however, was helping people beyond her professional life. She devoted countless hours to volunteering with the Salvation Army and her church, where her faith guided everything she did. Betty dearly loved her church family and cherished the fellowship, worship, and friendships that filled her life with purpose and joy. Her church community was a source of strength and belonging for her, and she gave back through prayer, encouragement, and acts of service that touched many lives.

Betty also treasured her many close friends, who became extended family over the years. Whether sharing coffee and conversation, lending a listening ear, or offering words of comfort, she built deep and lasting connections. Those who knew her will remember her for her gentle spirit, warm smile, and

remarkable ability to make everyone feel loved and valued.

Betty married her high school sweetheart, Gerald Dean Thompson, in 1956 and they shared 36 years before he preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Silas Miller and Martha (Warren) Gabbard; one brother, Glenn Gabbard; and one sister, Helen Rice.

She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Riley, and special companion, Bob Johnston; her son, Gerald Thompson, and his wife, Ivett, of Pharr, Texas; and her grandchildren, Nathan Riley and wife, Dulcinea, of Claremore, Oklahoma; Christy Thompson of Bloomington, Illinois; and Jessica Thompson and loving partner, Gabriel Rodriguez of McAllen, Texas. She is also survived by two great-granddaughters, Anya Riley and Amelia Rodriguez.

Betty is fondly remembered by her former son-in-law of 34 years, Dale Riley, who remained a close part of her life.

Betty's legacy of love, faith, and service will continue to inspire all who knew her. Her family takes comfort in knowing she is now at peace, reunited with her loved ones who went before her, and embraced in the everlasting love of her Savior.

A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 27, 2025 at Mound Valley Baptist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

822 North 2nd Street  
Vinita, OK 74301

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mound Valley Baptist Church  
10020 South 500 Road  
Miami, OK 74354

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ Steve & Dana Markcum purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Louise (Gabbard) Thompson.



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**Steve & Dana Markcum** - November 06, 2025 at 08:05 PM

EF

“ This breaks my heart. What little time I knew her, she was a wonderful person. I tormented her, jokingly, and she did it back. Loved talking to her. Condolences to her family.

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**Evelyn Freeman** - November 04, 2025 at 12:48 PM

SE

“ Betty has been a true inspiration to me over the last 6 years. She was the smiling face I always looked for everytime I delivered boxes to Pine Place. We would always hug and pray each time we saw each other. I first met Betty at Salvation Army and we remained friends ever since. She was a true woman of faith. My favorite memory will always be her ringing the bells at Christmas time. I'm sharing a picture of the last time she rang them in 2023. Betty will be truly missed. When I ring the bells this year it will be for you, Betty. I will see my favorite bell ringer on the other side.

*Love you, dear friend*

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**Susan Elrod** - October 28, 2025 at 11:02 PM

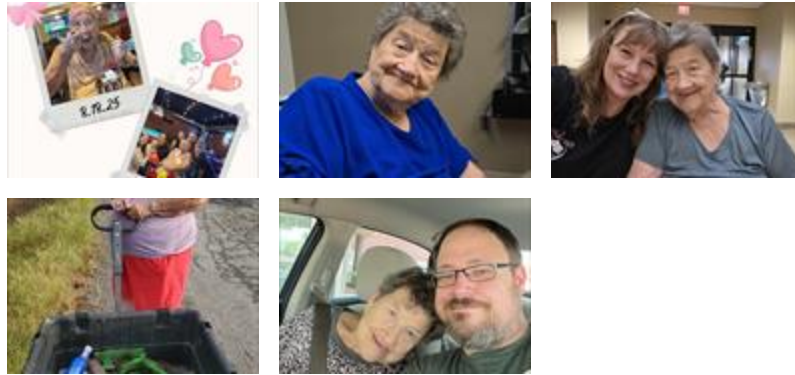
WT

“ Wanda T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Louise (Gabbard) Thompson.

Wanda T. - October 28, 2025 at 02:17 PM

CT

“ Grandma Betty has been a wonderful part of my life, and so many other lives. I will miss telling her about my days , and talking to her about her days and current craft projects. I'll miss teasing her about cheating at cards, and her teasing me about stacking the deck. These are just a few of my favorite pictures of her. Love you all.



Christy Thompson - October 28, 2025 at 02:00 PM

DM

A wonderful lady. It was a pleasure and honor to know toy my friend. Thank yly for treating me so well and speaking so kindly of me. You will be missed and thought of often. Thank you for the memories.

David Myers - October 29, 2025 at 12:38 AM