



Ura Claire Oliver

January 13, 1921 - April 10, 2014

What if you were a high school student whose biology teacher could beat you at golf, tennis, tell you the latest score of the OU football or basketball game and what position they were in the standings and then show you how to identify the organs of the body using a preserved fetal pig? If so, you would have most likely said my teacher was Claire Oliver who taught biology in Miami Oklahoma from 1961 – 1978.

Ura Claire Oliver was born January 13, 1921 in Iola, Kansas where she attended Junior College from 1939- 1941. When our country was drawn into WWII, many women worked jobs as telephone operators. Few women worked as telephone operators from 3:00 pm – 11:00 pm then carried 18 credits hours at a major university. Accordingly, Claire Oliver earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Bacteriology from the University of Kansas in 1943.

During her Junior Year at KU, she gained permission from her professors to take three weeks off to marry her hometown sweetheart, Bill Oliver, who was now a Navy pilot stationed in Oakland, California. They were married March 23, 1942 in Reno, Nevada and Mrs. Oliver stayed with her husband for another two weeks until he left for his tour in the South Pacific.

Claire received a telegram from Lieutenant Commander Bill Oliver as she walked toward the stadium to receive her diploma in May 1943 saying he was back in the states. Bill and Claire then traveled to Putaxent River Maryland Naval Base where Bill was a test pilot and Claire worked in the dispensary. In December 1945, Claire, Bill and their newborn daughter, moved to Miami,

Oklahoma where Bill started a business and Claire stayed at home to raise their daughter and their son who was born in Miami. While her children were in grade school, Claire started playing golf and recruited the entire family to participate in the sport. Unfortunately for her family, Claire somehow always ended up with the lowest score.

When her children were older, Claire started her teaching journey with trips to Pittsburg Kansas State College where she received her teaching certificate. Shortly after beginning her teaching career, Claire received prestigious summer study grants from the National Science Foundation held at San Jose State University and Southern Methodist University. Back in Miami, Claire one again found the energy to work while studying, this time her studying matched her work. Claire would rise early in the morning to study before heading off to school to teach. She completed her Masters Degree in Biology in 1963.

Mrs. Oliver gave back to her profession by being President of the Miami Association of Classroom Teachers. Her former students can be found today teaching in the high school classroom with another student being a Ph.D. professor doing research for alzheimer's disease. When Claire sees one of her former students, they often say to her you were the best teacher I had. After her retirement, Claire and Bill continued to play golf and travel. Claire was an active member of the Ottawa County Retired Educators Association and continues to play a role in her church and her PEO Chapter. Now at 90 years old, if Mrs. Oliver could see a little bit better and grip the club a little tighter, she would still be able to give her students a run for their money on the golf course.

Mrs. Oliver's Family Daughter, Diana Carter and husband John Carter of Norman, Oklahoma.

Grand-Daughter Deborah Fung and husband Archon of Boston, Massachusetts, Grandson Steven Smith of Dallas, Texas Son Bill Oliver and his wife Genet D'Arcy of Boulder, Colorado Grand-daughter Jennifer Liming and husband Duane of Asheville, North Carolina Grandson Billy Oliver and Laurie Williams of Salt Lake City, Utah, Great-grandchildren, Alexander Fung,

Zachary Fung of Boston, Massachusetts, Morgan Smith, Madison Smith, Mason Smith of Dallas, Texas.

Visitation will be on Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM at the Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami.

Mrs. Oliver's services will be 10:00 AM on Monday, April 14, 2014 at the First Christian Church's Chapel in Miami. Interment will follow at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery under the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Miami.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mrs. Oliver's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Grand Army of the Republic

2801 North Main Street
Miami, OK 74354

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service
5 B Street NW
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-3311
info@brown-winters.com
<https://www.brown-winters.com>

Funeral

APR 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church Chapel of Miami
2424 North Main
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-9816
<http://www.fccmiamiok.com>

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Debbie Bradley-Lee lit a candle in memory of Ura Claire Oliver*



Debbie Bradley-Lee - April 20, 2014 at 04:06 PM

DB

Mrs. Oliver was such a lovely lady and fabulous educator. She touched so many lives. Heaven gained a very special person.

Debbie Bradley-Lee - April 20, 2014 at 04:08 PM

CM

Mrs. Oliver is the only reason high school was fun. Wonderful teacher!

Charla Pruitt Miller - April 30, 2014 at 08:45 PM

CB

“ *So sorry for your loss Bill and Diana. Will never forget your Mom for all the help she gave me during my internship with her at MHS as she helped prepare me to become a high school Biology teacher.*
Cliff Blazer

Cliff Blazer - April 14, 2014 at 10:12 PM

MK

“ *Claire was an awesome encourager to me. I taught science also and she always had friendly advice and a smile. What a special lady!! I will miss. her joyous spirit*

Marcia Kruse - April 14, 2014 at 09:41 PM

Laura
Barnett

“ I too, have spent 25 years in middle and high school science classrooms from OK to FL, thanks in part to the smiling enthusiasm of Mrs. Oliver. Her legacy of learning goes on and on. Peace to her friends and family. A life well-lived and well-loved.

Laura Barnett - April 13, 2014 at 04:35 PM

KC

“ Karen Walters Chapel lit a candle in memory of Ura Claire Oliver



Karen Walters Chapel - April 13, 2014 at 10:31 AM

KC

Ms. Oliver will be sorely missed by me...and my family!

Karen Walters Chapel - April 13, 2014 at 10:32 AM

BP

“ What a truly amazing and gracious lady, friend and inspiring teacher! I never saw her without a smile and will always remember her encouraging words. Did I mention she did a pretty mean 2-step? Thank you Mrs. Oliver for making our journey more memorable. Sincere sympathies for your family & friends . We are unable to be there Monday but are in our thoughts & prayers, Love Bob & Debbie S. Paul.

Bob & Debbie Paul - April 12, 2014 at 06:22 PM

RM

“ Claire was a great friend to my parents, Harold and Mary Wood. And she was a great help to me as their health deteriorated. Her visits and kindness were greatly appreciated. Diana and Billy, I'm sorry for your loss. Your mother was a great lady and friend!
Rosemary Wood Moran

Rosemary Wood Moran - April 12, 2014 at 11:53 AM

JS

“ Mrs. Oliver was one of my favorite teachers at MHS. She made Biology fun and interesting - and was one of my inspirations for a career in science. Warmest condolences on a life well-lived - truly a class act!

JB (Jimbill) Schuelein

JB Schuelein - April 12, 2014 at 09:57 AM

SB

“ Mrs. Oliver brought passion and dedication to the classroom. She gave me a heart for science that has never diminished. I became a teacher, and for the last 26 years, have taught science in many grades. My recent time is spent with first graders who are catching the science bug from me. I know I have a passion and desire to share the wonder of the natural world with children, because Mrs. Oliver took the time to help me discover the joy of learning through science. May her family know her influence beyond the classroom is still changing lives.



Stephanie Prewitt Brown - April 11, 2014 at 08:47 PM

MP

I didn't grow up in Miami, so I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Mrs Oliver until I moved to Miami and joined the 1st Christian church and went to Bible Study. She was such a beautiful lady and always so upbeat and friendly. I know her family and girl friends will miss her very much. Such a pleasure knowing her.. Margie Panter

Margie Panter - April 14, 2014 at 01:54 PM