



## Bonnie Orr

September 18, 1933 - May 8, 2017

Bonnie Dell McAdams Orr, age 83, of Judsonia passed away on May 8, 2017. She was born in Pleasant Plains on September 18, 1933 to the late Roy and Chlorene McAdams. As a child, Bonnie moved with her family to Judsonia, where her father established his business as a barber. Bonnie became involved in many school activities, but she excelled in basketball. In her senior year of high school, she lead the Judsonia Panthers to a hard-fought, two point victory in an overflowing gymnasium over the Griffithville Eagles in the seesaw finale of the White County Girls Basketball tournament, dubbed the South's Most Spectacular, or SMS. Bonnie was awarded the W. E. Orr Award as Outstanding Player, but it was her runner-up finish in the SMS Beauty Revue and her fashion-forward sense of style that captured the attention of the tournament's founder, W. E. "Ewing" Orr. Following graduation, Ewing courted Bonnie. In spite of an almost 23 year age difference, they married on March 31, 1956. Bonnie was born in the Great Depression. The financial struggles of her family did much to influence her career choice. She was the first in her family to earn bachelors and masters degrees in education from Harding College in Searcy. Bonnie's career as a first grade teacher spanned 30 years in Crawfordsville, Bald Knob, and Judsonia. In the early years, she would have as many as 60 children in her classes, which she managed by forming as many as eight groups for levelized instruction. Each child was special and "Mrs. Orr" worked tirelessly to ensure that the education she provided would allow every student to break their own family cycles of poverty

just as she had done. Ewing and Bonnie lived on the Orr family homestead in downtown Judsonia throughout their lives. They had two daughters, Sandra Elaine and Fonda Jo. Bonnie's family life was centered around simple, small town activities that revolved around school and church. These included memberships and volunteer involvements in the Judsonia Methodist Church (Sunday School Director and Board President), the White County Fair, and Delta Kappa Gamma professional society of women's educators (President). Along the way, Bonnie and Ewing made audio recordings of each of the family Christmases from 1958 until 1975. To this day, these recordings are replayed and provide happy memories of the family's early years together. Throughout her life, Bonnie provided wise counsel to family and friends. She would never betray a confidence and could see a problem from all sides while passing no judgments. Bonnie had a gift of empathy and never took the easy way out. After Ewing's stroke in 1982, Bonnie cared for him alone until his death on May 30, 1997, thereby allowing him to convalesce at home instead of a nursing facility. Her selfless sacrifice, however, led to her own mental and physical problems, which she both endured and overcame throughout the rest of her life. Bonnie is survived by her daughters, Sandra Orr Cassimus (Randy) of Oklahoma City and Fonda McCarty of Searcy; her only grandchild, Journey Donna' McCarty, and Journey's father, Jim McCarty, of Searcy; her sister and brother, Lavetta Stader and Bobby McAdams (Sue) of Judsonia; her sisters, Olga Nell Daugherty (Jerry) and Marolyn McCorkle (Frank) of Searcy; and numerous neices, nephews, extended family, and friends. Visitation will be Wednesday, May 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. and the service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, at Powell Funeral Home in Bald Knob. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Judsonia Methodist Church or the Searcy Humane Society. Arrangements entrusted to Powell Funeral Home Bald Knob-Judsonia. [www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net)



# Cemetery Details

## Evergreen Cemetery

Van Buren Street  
Judsonia, AR 72081

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 10.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)  
1272 Highway 367 North  
Bald Knob, AR 72010  
(501) 724-3201  
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Service

**MAY 11.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)  
1272 Highway 367 North  
Bald Knob, AR 72010  
(501) 724-3201  
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Interment

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MAY 11 (CT)

Evergreen Cemetery  
Van Buren Street  
Judsonia, AR 72081

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Love and Prayers , Becky and Chuck*

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**Becky Burns** - May 11, 2017 at 12:13 PM

JG

“ *How do I say goodbye to yesterday? Bonnie, was a part of my life i shall never forget. I remember loving times on my back patio with her, coffee and remembering times past. She told me stories of times gone by and I told her stories of things I wished to come. We are all butterflies, and we shed our cocoons and fly at some time in our lives, I shall never see a butterfly without your smile. Fly free, fly high and the stars shine brighter because you are there. I thank you and your family for sharing a part of you and your life with me. To those left behind, Fly free, and live as the beautiful butterfly your mother would want you to be.*

*Joan Gay*

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**Joan Gay** - May 10, 2017 at 09:41 PM

JE

“ *What a beautiful obituary. Your mother had a sweet nature and she made the world a better place for so many people. We're so sorry for your loss. --Mike and Jennie Morel*

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**Jennie** - May 10, 2017 at 07:50 AM

JM

“ *You are all loved and are in my prayers.*  
*John Morgan*

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**John W. Morgan** - May 09, 2017 at 09:57 AM

SS

“ *She was my teacher in school. I loved her. Prayers for her family.*  
*Sherri Kent Spillman*

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**sherri kent spillman** - May 08, 2017 at 09:47 PM

FM

*Thank you Sherri, I'm sorry this comes so late but, I suppose it has taken this long for it all to set in and each of us to grieve in our own way. May God Bless each of you!*

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**Fonda McCarty** - April 25, 2020 at 09:20 PM

GH

“ *Sandra and Fonda,*

*Our hearts hurt tonight for both of you for the loss of this wonderful person. Mrs. Orr was such a special person. She educated many of us, was a great example for many more of us, inspired all of us.*

*Loss of a parent is difficult; loss of the last parent is even more difficult. But, in this time of your personal grief, please a few moments to celebrate the inspiration that was your mother (and your father as well).*

*Please let us know if we can help in any way. You are in our thoughts and our prayers.*

*Greg & Angie Hopkins*

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**Greg & Angie Hopkins** - May 08, 2017 at 08:24 PM

GN

*Hi Fonda, I briefly met your Mom and met your father a few times. I used to hang out with you and Rhonda Tippy back in 1970-1972. My name is Gail Newman- Mccanless. I'm sorry to hear about your mother. Take care. I just wanted to say I'm thinking of you.*

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**Gail Mccanless- Newman** - June 10, 2020 at 09:59 PM

EW

“Bonnie has been a part of my life for many years. First, she was the 1st grade teacher for all four of my kids. Second, she was a fellow teacher who I had the pleasure of working with for many years. And third, she and Ewing were both dear friends. Comfort and prayers are offered to Sandra and Fonda, I share your grief.

*Eddie Wood*

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**Eddie Wood** - May 08, 2017 at 04:53 PM



*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Mickey and Nora Ransom  
3325 Newbury Street  
Manhattan, KS 66503*

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**Michel D. Ransom** - May 08, 2017 at 07:09 PM

LJ

*Prayers of comfort for the immediate and extended family.  
Linda Ransom (Jackson)  
29 Shoemaker Circle  
Batesville, Ark 72501*

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**Linda Ransom Jackson** - May 08, 2017 at 07:14 PM

BR

*Prayers of comfort to the family.  
Ricky and Becky Ransom  
Amber, Bill, and Brianna Bass*

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**Becky and Ricky Ransom** - May 08, 2017 at 07:15 PM

GS

*Jason and I love you Fonda and Journey. Our hearts are carrying you with us. Georgeanna Sweet-Fike*

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**Georgeanna Sweet-Fike** - May 10, 2017 at 12:19 PM

CT

*Fonda, so sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. We are praying for you. My mother was named Bonnie also. Heartfelt sympathies to you & your family. Chaney & Leah Taylor, Batesville*

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**Chaney & Leah Taylor** - May 11, 2017 at 11:18 AM

FO

*On behalf of the family of Bonnie Orr we would like to express our appreciation to each and every one of you. Your kindness and concern has been a great comfort to each of us.*

*May God Bless*

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**Fonda** - May 17, 2017 at 01:00 PM

DD

*Fonda, I'm so sorry, I just found out!*

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**Doris Daley** - May 20, 2017 at 12:57 AM