



Oleta Murriel Bryant Dixon

December 23, 1925 - August 15, 2017

Oleta Murriel Bryant Dixon, born December 23, 1925 on Splatter Branch in Center Ridge Arkansas, passed from her earthly life on August 15, 2017. She was the 5th child of Eli Harvey and Mary Jane Epperson Bryant. She was the widow of Lyman J. Dixon to whom she married September 8, 1945 until his death in November of 1991. She was a Christian being baptized in Hogan Creek. Her eleven siblings in birth order are Marvelle Noakes, Bertie Flowers, Faye McCoy, Afton Bryant, Murriel Dixon, Doy E. Bryant, Betty Louise Flowers, Thomasa Oliger, Nina Sue Scroggins, Hubert Bryant, Jimmy F. Bryant, and Mary Rita Sutton.

Murriel is survived by two daughters, Milna and Randy Hayes of Blackwell and Bethali Sommers of Morrilton and Robert Standridge of Dover; 2 granddaughters: Dr. Meghan Sommers and Emali Sommers, 2 step-granddaughters, Shawn and Bob Carter of Humnoke and LeAnn and Clay Brazeal of Carlisle, 2 step-great grandsons, 2 step-great granddaughters, 1 step-great-great granddaughter, a brother Jimmy Bryant, a sister Nina Scroggins, numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

Murriel worked at Oberman Manufacturing, later Levi's, in Morrilton for 18 months while attending Arkansas State Teachers College, now UCA in Conway, to get the 30 college hours needed to obtain a teaching certificate. With certificate in hand, in 1949, she started teaching grades 1-6 in a one room schoolhouse at Blackwell for four years. While teaching at Blackwell, she continued taking college courses and obtained a Bachelor's degree in

Education. She taught 1st and 3rd grades at South Ward in Morrilton for 1 year, 7th grade for 2 years, then 2nd and 3rd grades for one year. After the birth of her daughter Milna, she spent 5 years teaching 5th grade in Atkins while obtaining a Master's Degree in Education at University of Arkansas in Fayetteville on Saturdays and during summers. She then taught math at Morrilton Junior High School until the 1969-1970 school year which she took off to be able to transport her youngest daughter, Beth, to kindergarten for half a day. During this time she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, which was an incurable cancer. After experimental and, at the time, unfamiliar chemotherapy and 62 trips to Little Rock for Cobalt treatments, she was able to return to teaching 7th, 8th, and 9th grade math at Sacred Heart for one year. After, she went back to Morrilton Junior High teaching 7th grade math and moved to the new building. When Morrilton, Plumerville, and Menifee combined, it became Morrilton Intermediate High School and she taught 9th grade general math. This was a total of 36 years teaching with 26 years being at Morrilton. She taught future doctors, lawyers, teachers, professors, engineers, pharmacist, RNs, LPNs, CNAs, dental hygienists, representatives, senators, business men and women, and many hard working good kids. She influenced countless lives.

She retired in 1986 and enjoyed 5 years of being home and raising cattle with Lyman until his death. Three months later her first grandchild, Meghan, was born and then 2 years later, Emali. Those two granddaughters became the center of her world. Being "Mamaw" was in her mind THE greatest achievement ever. Her heart overflowed with joy to have a doctor and a teacher.

Mrs. Dixon was respected and feared by all. Many students became acquainted with her board of education which she could apply in a most memorable way. Very few students had a run in with "The Board" more than once. She remembered all of her students usually by name and they remembered her, too. She mentored many young beginning teachers with her years of experience.

Murriel was dependable, hardworking, fair, and strong. She was the true meaning of a farmer's wife. A few of the things she did regularly was taking meals to the farm, making sure she canned enough to last through the winter if not more, and making sure her family had their needs met. She will be loved and missed by many.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 18, at the Harris Chapel with Rev. Katie Pearce and Rev. James Williams officiating. Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to South Conway County Public School Foundation/Mrs. Murriel Dixon Morrilton Junior High classroom teacher grant, PO Box 318, Morrilton, AR 72110. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Tribute Wall



“ *Oleta Murriel Bryant Dixon*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers for your family.*

Mary Jane Norman - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for the loss of Ms Dixon. I have fond memories of her teaching me math. Praying for y'all!*

Rena Glover Drinkwater - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ *Beth, I'm so sorry for the loss of your mother. From reading her obituary, she left the family with a remarkable legacy. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time for you and your family. Love and prayers, Beverly*

Beverly Wallace - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your Mother's passing Beth. I know you and the girls will miss her terribly. You are all in our prayers.*

Gail and Gordon Carte - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

DR

“ Milna, Beth, Emali and Meghan-I was so sorry to hear of Mrs Dixon passing. She was one of my hardest and strict teachers but also one of my favorites! What a joy it was to see her get tickled by some idiotic thing one of the boys in class would do when she was trying to stay so strict. She had a heart of gold and will be missed.

Donna Riggs - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

TW

“ Mrs. Dixon was a very sweet lady, who will be missed by many. I'm very thankful for the short time I got to spend with her. Her sweet smile will never be forgotten. Praying for peace and comfort for your family.

Tiffany Watts - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

K(

“ Milna, my deepest sympathy to you and all your family in the loss of your mother. I pray you find comfort in the good memories.

Kim Oelke (Knighten) - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

SM

“ Mrs. Dixon was my math teacher in junior high. She had an extraordinary ability to be firm and demanding, and at the same time, caring and encouraging. I am a college professor today, in part, because of the influence of wonderful teachers like Mrs. Dixon.

Steve Mullen - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

JC

“ Had her for 7th grade math. Prayers for her family!

Jackie Baker Cothren - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

KF

“ I am so sorry to hear about your mother. May Gods peace be with you and your family.

Kay Fougrousse - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

ES

“ Milna, I'm sorry for your loss. Prayers of comfort for your family.

Elginia Robinson Strawn - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

DK

“ Prayers for you all as you adjust to the loss of such a wonderful lady who enjoyed life and had an impact on all she talked to. I loved listening to she and Aunt Cora talk to each other and laugh.

Dorothy Keisler - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

SG

“ I had such respect and admiration for Mrs. Dixon. She was one of the best and, truly, one of a kind. Sending much love and prayers to the entire Dixon Family. Sara and Jamie Goodall

Sara Goodall - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

KS

“ Beth and Milna, I am sorry for your loss. I am a former MJHS math student of Mrs. Dixon and so proud to be one. She was one of a kind. I will never forget her influence. My heart, thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Kim Stobaugh - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

MF

“ Dear Family, Your Mom was such a sweet & grand lady. Buddy & I spent some happy times with them in our farming days. My sympathy, love & prayers are with you. May God be your comfort.

Martha Fougrousse - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

KS

“ Beth and Milna, so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Dixon was one of a kind. I had the privilege of having her as a teacher at MJHS, and I am very proud to say that! My heart, thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Kim Stobaugh - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

BB

“ I was in Mrs. Dixon's seventh grade math class. She was an amazing teacher! I will never forget her!

Betty Lou Baker - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

CB

“ Beth, Milna, Randy, Meghan, Emali, and Family, Our sympathy, love, and prayers are with each of you. We all have very fond memories of your Mother and Grandmother, love you all, Carolyn and Bob Bowling, The Duvall Family

Carolyn Bowling - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

EP

“ Mrs Dixon was my 10 grade Geometry teacher at Morrilton Intermediate High School in 1983. I also had the pleasure of having her daughter, Milna, as my 8th grade Math teacher at Plumerville Junior High in 1981, the first year that Morrilton, Plumerville and Menifee were consolidated. Lots of fond memories of the Dixon teachers. Sorry to learn of the loss of Mrs Dixon, but I'm sure she is in a better place now and smiling down at her family and all her former students. My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Dixon and her family.

Ed Pinter - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM

KW

“ She was my Math teacher and a good one. I liked her very much. Sorry for your loss.

Kay Ward - June 29, 2018 at 05:36 PM