



Dortha Ellen Russell

September 13, 1939 - September 12, 2024

Dortha Ellen Russell (née Castleberry), affectionately known as "Nana," passed away at the age of 84 on September 12, 2024, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Born on September 13, 1939, in Myra, Texas, Dortha was known for her kindness and generosity throughout her life.

Dortha graduated from Palo Duro High School in 1957 and furthered her education at Bethany Nazarene College and then later at West Texas State University. She married Dean Russell in October of 1964 and he preceded her in death on November 15, 2013.

Known for her loving and wise nature and her amazing chocolate chip cookies, Dortha had the unique gift of making everyone feel seen and important. She dedicated her life to her family, friends, and church—embodying a spirit of unconditional love and support.

Dortha is survived by her daughters, Lisa Russell of Gilbert, Arizona, and Shelly Russell-McNutt (Garlan) of Ruidoso NM and Claremore, Oklahoma. She was a cherished grandmother to Tiffany Buckley (Michael), Angela Chickering, Jordan Brackeen, and McKenzie Brackeen-Autry (Brandon), and a proud great-grandmother to six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Horace and Billie Castleberry, her siblings, Barbara Moore and Duane Castleberry and her husband, Dean Russell.

A memorial service will be held at the North Beacon Church of the Nazarene on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm. This church holds significant meaning as it was not only built with the help of her father but was also a place where she worshipped for the first 35 years of her life. Dortha's life and legacy will be honored in a ceremony that reflects her enduring faith and the love she shared with all who knew her.

The family will receive guests at Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home of Amarillo from 6-8pm on Monday September 16, 2024.