



Esther Arnell Snyman

June 21, 1931 - March 17, 2025

Esther Arnell Snyman, 93, formerly of Bartlesville, joined her beloved husband, Nico Snyman, in Heaven on Monday, March 17, 2025, in Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

Esther was born in Siteki, Swaziland, Africa, on June 21, 1931, the third of eight children born to Clarence and Roberta Keith. She and her seven siblings were all born on the mission field in Africa where the Keiths spent a total of thirty-three years as missionaries under the Wesleyan Church.

Her first ten years were in Swaziland (present day Eswatini). Because of a severe outbreak of malaria, her family was moved to Emmanuel Mission, Port Shepstone, Natal, South Africa. Life in the mission field was difficult for a family of eight children, especially providing for their education. She was home schooled alongside her siblings.

After the Keiths spent eighteen years in missionary work, they moved to Austin, Indiana where her father grew up. She started high school in the United States which was quite an adjustment after living her first fifteen years in Africa. She attended a Christian high school and college with her siblings. The five oldest children were allowed to work their way through college. Esther earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from God's Bible School and College in 1955.

Esther met her husband Nico Snyman, a citizen of South Africa, while in college. The couple was married on May 15, 1955, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Esther and Nico moved back to South Africa where both her children, Yvonne and Eugene, were born. The family returned permanently to the United States in 1963 and resided in Kansas City, MO. Nico passed away from Mesothelioma in April 1971.

Esther put herself through nursing school while raising her children. Upon completion of her schooling in 1974, she moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where she worked at Jane Phillips Memorial Hospital for the rest of her career. She never remarried and instead dedicated her life to serving others in her nursing career, her church, and her family. At Jane Phillips, she worked in oncology, patient teaching (especially diabetes), and as a head nurse. Additionally, in her role as enterostomal therapist she spent many hours visiting patients in their homes all around the Bartlesville area. She resided in Bartlesville from 1974 to October, 2019, at which time she moved to Locust Grove, Oklahoma, until her passing.

While living in Bartlesville, Esther attended Bartlesville's First Wesleyan Church.

Esther is survived by two children, Yvonne Sandlin and her husband Eric, and Eugene Snyman and his wife Kathy; siblings, David Keith and his wife Joanne, Mary Gunsalus, Bonnie Sheen and her husband Brian, and Varona Barrows; nine grandchildren, Michael Snyman, Angela Schmidgall and her husband Sean, Daniel Snyman and his wife Sarah, Timothy Snyman, Teresa Vance and her husband Sean, John Snyman and his wife Ciara, Nicole Hicks, Monica Pierce and her husband Robert, and Joshua Hicks and his wife Shana; ten great-grandchildren, Easley and Norah Pierce, Gabriel Schmidgall, Raphael Schmidgall, Nathaniel Schmidgall, Filumena Schmidgall, Felicity

Schmidgall, Joan of Arc Snyman and Jerome Snyman, and Nicolaas (Nico) Snyman; 17 nieces and nephews and dozens of great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Nico Snyman; parents, Clarence and Roberta Keith; brothers, Robert Keith and John Keith; sisters-in-law, Huberta Keith and Ruth Keith; nephew, Keith Lorenzen; sister, Bethel Lorenzen; brothers-in-law, Irwin Lorenzen, Harold Gunsalus and Robert (Bob) Barrows.

Visitation will be from 10-8 Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel, 4201 Nowata Road, Bartlesville, OK 74006, 918-333-7665.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Friday, March 21, 2025, at Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel with Reverend Dan Dennison officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carter Davis and Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Longview Cemetery

Kansas City, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

MAR 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Esther Arnell Snyman*



Davis Family Funeral Home - March 20, 2025 at 01:33 PM

LE

So sorry to hear she was a kind considerate Woman.

Liz Ellis - March 20, 2025 at 02:37 PM

RB

One of the kindest, loving, caring ladies I ever met. She will be missed. Praying for her family

Rosy Nikkel Beck - March 21, 2025 at 06:24 PM

EB

You always made me smile and enjoyed working you.

Elizabeth Booth - March 27, 2025 at 11:05 AM

KR

“ I worked with Esther at Jane Phillips for many years. She also worked with my mom at JP. She had a beautiful smile and was so fun to be around. Loved her laugh. She was a caring nurse and truly advocated for her patients. I was grateful that she was my father’s nurse the day he died back in 1979. After she retired I would occasionally run into her at the store and was always glad to see her. Early last year my mom was in the nursing home and we got to visit with Esther who was there visiting her sister. What a blessing to see her, she really hadn’t changed a bit. So grateful for the times we shared. 💜 Kay Ruehlen.

Kay Ruehlen - March 27, 2025 at 11:26 PM

DB

“ Darla Bohannan lit a candle in memory of Esther Arnell Snyman



Darla Bohannan - March 22, 2025 at 12:39 PM

TF

“ It is with a sad heart that we send our greetings of sympathy. Your family has such a special place in our hearts. We cherish all the special memories of the time we were blessed by your presence in our lives. There are way too many to list, but be assured we will always treasure those times. (The Burmans/Snypos) Please be assured we share your loss, but we have a sweet peace that our dear friend is Heaven's gain. Love and Blessings - Wes, Joyce, Mark and Dana Burpo.

The Burpo Family - March 21, 2025 at 09:33 AM

MV

There are so few people who have such a strong moral compass, and even fewer who are also warm and caring. Esther (Mrs. Snyman to me growing up) was such a shining example of how a person should live their life. I'm blessed to have known her. - Mark Burpo Vernon

Mark B Vernon - March 21, 2025 at 11:39 AM

EB

“ *Always enjoyed working with her delightful*



Elizabeth Booth - March 20, 2025 at 09:41 AM

SO

“ *Esther was such a special lady, always gracious and kind, with a great sense of humor. She was such a wonderful example of a Godly woman. Hugs to Yvonne and Gene. She will truly be missed. My prayers are with you*

Sandy Alexander O'Neal - March 19, 2025 at 10:58 PM

SH

“ *I met Esther at the hospital in 1981 when I began working there. She was a woman of integrity and empathy. She was a roll model and friend to many. She will be missed by many whose lives she touched. Prayers of condolences to family.*

Sharon Hayman - March 19, 2025 at 04:35 PM

BE

“ *I worked with Esther in the hospital. She was so good and kind to work with on the floors. Loved her witness at work and at church.*

Barbara Eck - March 19, 2025 at 04:20 PM

VI

“*Esther was such a classy and fun loving woman of God. I always admired her quiet strength and how she finished raising her 2 children as a widow. She was a true gem.*”

Vilene - March 19, 2025 at 02:29 PM