



## Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem

July 17, 1927 - March 28, 2015

Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem, 87, of Bartlesville went home to his Eternal Father on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

Ralph was born the son of Marvin Ray and Elsie (Layman) Dershem on July 17, 1927, in Piqua, KS. He was raised in rural Kansas and Colorado, and graduated high school in Grand Junction, CO. Ralph enlisted in the Air Force and served at the end of World War II. Upon his honorable discharge he was employed with Phillips Petroleum Company for six years before entering the ministry. Ralph's mother taught guitar and music lessons and that is how he first became acquainted with Mary Lou who was one of Mrs. Dershem's music students. Ralph was united in marriage with Mary Lou "Cookie" on August 23, 1947, in Dewey. They were blessed with two girls and three boys, and 68 years together.

Ralph attended Oklahoma Baptist University while he pastored his first churches which included New Harmony, Ramona First Baptist, Muskogee SE Baptist, Virginia Ave Baptist, and NE Baptist in Ponca City. Once retired, he was called back to the ministry in Wann, Nowata and planted Rose Hill Community Baptist Church in Dewey.

Ralph loved God and spent his life living for his Lord and Savior. He was attentive to the needs of the flock and put forth special effort in marrying and

burying them as they needed him. He loved the country life which he became acquainted with through his father who worked with cattle and on dairy farms. Ralph was a gifted woodworker and he especially enjoyed making children's toys out of wood. His other hobbies included reading, crossword puzzles, writing and golf. He was a loving, doting grandfather who loved to teach and spend time with all of his grandchildren. He touched the lives and hearts of many and he will be dearly missed by his loved ones and church families.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife Mary Lou "Cookie" of the home; five children, Linda Dershem of Prescott, AZ, Michael Dershem and Marcia of Bartlesville, Jack Dershem and Renee of Ponca City, Melodye Lawhon and Steve of Florence, SC, and Jeremy Dershem and Kathleen of McKinney, TX; two brothers Marvin Dershem and Dorothy, and Brian Dershem and Mildred, all of Grand Junction; 12 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Ralph's family will receive friends at the Davis Family Funeral Home, 918-534-3030, 113 S. Osage (Hwy. 75), Dewey, on Tuesday, from 6-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial may be made to the Highland Park Baptist Church Youth, 300 SE Washington Blvd., Bartlesville, Ok 74006.

Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at Highland Park Baptist Church, with Dr. Don Coleman officiating. Interment will follow in the Dewey Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by the James H. Teel American Legion Post 105 Honor Guard. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Rev. Dershem's family at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 31. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel  
113 S Osage Ave  
Dewey, OK 74029  
(918) 534-3030  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Family and Friends Gathering

MAR 31. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel  
113 S Osage Ave  
Dewey, OK 74029  
(918) 534-3030  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Service

APR 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Highland Park Baptist Church  
300 SE Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
<https://highlandparkbaptist.net/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem*



---

**Davis Family Funeral Home** - March 30, 2015 at 07:33 PM

LE

“ *He was a loving father who raised good children who were a testament to his faith. He was a true living example of someone living as Jesus taught us to do. He was always to everyone. My heart goes out to the family.*

*Lisa Henson Eddy*

---

**Lisa Henson Eddy** - April 02, 2015 at 02:56 PM

DM

“ *Ralph Dershem was one of the finest preachers and pastors and man that I have ever had the privilege of meeting. We spent some good years with Ralph at Rose Hill Baptist and he will surely be missed. Our loss is heaven's gain. I always wished that I had a voice like Ralph's. If ever the Lord made a "preacher's voice" it was his.*

*Mary Lou, Linda and I didn't know about this until today (April 1) or we would have been to the funeral. Just please know that we love you and that we loved Ralph. Yesterday I was looking forward to heaven.....I am looking forward to going there even more today so that I can see my old pardner again.*

*You and the family have our prayers and our condolences. Our hearts are on the ground. Lord we loved that guy.*

*Don & Linda Miller*

---

**Don & Linda Miller** - April 01, 2015 at 08:53 PM

PJ

“ The first memory I have of Bro. Ralph was when I was 5 yrs. old and scraped my knee up at Vacation Bible School. He calmed my young fears, dried my tears, cleaned up my wounded knee and made everything better. He was a great preacher, but also had the biggest pastor's heart and was always there to help and minister to others. He and Mary Lou moved away to another church in Ponca City during my elementary years, but then returned to Virginia Avenue to be our pastor again in my late teenage years.

He also performed the wedding ceremony for me and Kenny and was a special part of our family. The Davis family grew up with the Dershem family and we all have such wonderful memories from those days. We are praying for you Mary Lou, Linda, Mike, Jack, Melody and Jeremy in the loss of this very special man. May God's Spirit bring peace and comfort to your hearts.

In Christ's Love,  
Pat (Davis) Jones

---

**Pat Jones** - April 01, 2015 at 02:54 PM

AP

“ Ralph married Terry Parker and Annette Buford on March the 7th of 1968, which are still married. Terry was raised with Ralph and Cookie children on Hogshooter creek. We thought so much Ralph he was a great person to all, do not know a person who did not love him. So sorry for the loss in your family, but Ted and Ruth Parker will be there to talk to a great friend. God Bless you all.

---

**Annette Parker** - March 31, 2015 at 08:55 PM

JC

“ Brother Ralph was such a wonderful person to know and He and Mary Lou were always smiling and took time to visit. It was a real pleasure to know him. Prayers and thoughts with the family.



Jane Gelwick Call - March 31, 2015 at 08:02 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.



March 31, 2015 at 06:24 PM

RK

“ Brother Ralph was a very special man. He was in two words "the best". The joy he brought to others is unmatched by anyone else. Heaven is a brighter place now.

Roxanne Taylor King - March 31, 2015 at 05:29 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.



March 31, 2015 at 08:31 AM

OB

“ *Rev. Ralph Dershem was one of the kindest, most Godly men I have ever known. He was truly a devoted servant of our Lord. My condolences to his family. He will be missed by them as well as many, many friends.*

*Orva Lee (Benway) Brown*

---

**Orva Brown** - March 30, 2015 at 10:59 PM

SH

“ *Hoping your treasured memories bring you comfort day by day. May the Lord comfort your heart as only He can do. May you find peace and love in the memories you cherish.*



*Suzanne Renfro Harlan*

---

**Suzanne Renfro Harlan** - March 30, 2015 at 10:22 PM

AR

“ *2 files added to the album LifeTributes*



---

**Adam Rauh** - March 30, 2015 at 08:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.*



---

March 30, 2015 at 08:21 PM



“ *Jim Haberly purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.*



---

**Jim Haberly** - March 30, 2015 at 06:03 PM



“ *Many wonderful memories of Bro Ralph and his family. Ralph was always smiling and offering encouragement. His love of family was evident all the time. Falls Creek etc. officiating at the marriage of Jim and I in 1968. Softball games and those great potlucks after church. Thanks to all of his family for sharing him with us. I think of his joy in being with his Heavenly Father and free of pain and worry. He will be in our hearts always.*  
*Cindy Wilson Neidig*

---

**cindy wilson Neidig** - March 30, 2015 at 05:54 PM



“ 47 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Davis Family Funeral Home - March 30, 2015 at 05:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.



March 30, 2015 at 03:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Davis Family Funeral Home - March 30, 2015 at 02:51 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.*



---

March 30, 2015 at 02:16 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Ralph Orlin Dershem.*



---

March 30, 2015 at 01:43 PM