



## Denzel "Dee" Lorene Paulk Mathews

November 19, 1927 - May 5, 2023

Graveside Services for Denzel "Dee" Lorene Paulk Mathews, 95, of Ardmore, OK, will be held at 11:00 am, Saturday, May 13, 2023, at Enoch Cemetery, Gilmer, TX. Arrangements are under the direction of McWhorter Funeral Home.

Denzel was born on November 19, 1927, in Garber, OK, Garfield County, to Wilburn Edward Paulk and Effie Mae Herndon Paulk. She passed away on Friday, May 5, 2023, at Medical City Plano, TX.

Dee's father spent most of his life following the oil boom towns in Oklahoma and Texas with some time spent in Illinois with factory work. His family, therefore, followed him from town to town. Some of her younger school years were spent in Illinois. However, she lived most of her life in Gilmer, TX, and Ardmore, OK with some time spent in Independence, MO. She graduated from Gilmer High School and married Paul Mathews in July of 1946.

Throughout her career, she worked for 9 libraries, 5 genealogy centers, and 3 schools. She gained a reputation for locating "misplaced" people and was not only hired by private individuals, but also private detectives, lawyers, and once by Universal Studios for research. She fully retired in 2001 at the age of 74, moving at that time from Independence, MO back to Ardmore, OK to be closer to children and grandchildren.

She enjoyed reading, writing, theater, genealogy work, and actively working on her callings within her church; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Dee was preceded in death by her parents, Wilburn and Effie Herndon Paulk; siblings, Peggy Mae Paulk, Everett Wayne Paulk, Billy Ray Paulk; grandchildren, Danny L. Hobbs, Jr., Penelope J. Kirby Interiano, and Aaron M. Reynolds; and great-grandson, Hunter L. Finch.

Surviving family: Daughters, Madeline L. Kirby of Ardmore, OK, Midene Reynolds (Michael) of Hilltop Lakes, TX; Grandchildren, Raegon N. Martell (Mike), Andrea D. Sears (Seth), Andrew J. Reynolds (Nicole), Adam T. Reynolds (Malia); Great-grandchildren, Sophie and Laurel Martell, Annabel Prieb (John), Alden and Jude Sears, Christopher, Makayla Reynolds, Brian, Breanna, and Eliana Bass, Andrew Jr., Keenan, Aaron, Tommy Lee, Noel Reynolds, Raphael and Oscar Jr. Interiano; Great-Great-grandchildren, Oliver, Isabel Reynolds, Ivan and Luka Interiano, Ansley Prieb. One sister-in-law, Annette Williams Paulk, one brother-in-law, Jack Mathews (Delli), and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to your local LDS genealogy centers, Heifer International, St. Jude's, Boys Clubs of America, or your favorite charity.

Pallbearers are Mike Martell, Lloyd Dodd, Melvin Dodd, George Dodd, Brandon Dodd, and Michael Reynolds. Honorary pallbearers are Lorin Mask, Donald Hensley, Paul Ray Shaw, Paul Ray Shaw Jr., Bart Austin, Hulen Moore, Jim Pousson, Steve Tefteller, Charles Tefteller, and Larry Tefteller. Please visit Dee's online registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Enoch Cemetery

3214 FM 49  
Gilmer, TX 75644

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Enoch Cemetery  
3214 FM 49  
Gilmer, TX 75644

# Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Denzel "Dee" Lorene Paulk Mathews*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - May 12, 2023 at 04:04 PM

MR

*Rest in peace. Thank you for being a wonderful Mother!*

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**Midene Reynolds** - May 27, 2023 at 11:37 PM

JM

“ *Madeline, this is Judy (Carroll) Marshall in Gilmer. I'm so sorry that your mother passed away. A card I'd mailed was returned; I don't have your current address. Send me an update, please. 9007 St. Hwy. 155 N, Gilmer 75644*

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**Judy C Marshall** - May 31, 2023 at 06:57 PM



“ 46 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - May 12, 2023 at 03:53 PM



“ *May God comfort you in this time of sorrow. Love you all, Linda & John Remsza*

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**Linda Remsza** - May 12, 2023 at 07:30 AM