



David Terrell Drake

July 4, 1931 - February 13, 2025

David Terrell Drake, 93, of Elk City, Oklahoma, passed away on February 13, 2025. Born on July 4, 1931, in Brinkman, Oklahoma, to Willie Carl and Johnnie Elmo Drake, Terrell lived a life marked by adventure, curiosity, and craftsmanship. In his early years, Terrell explored the Western United States and Alaska before settling in Willow, Oklahoma, with his beloved wife, Loretta Jane Drake, who preceded him in death. There, they raised their daughter, Terri Jayne, before moving to Lubbock, Texas, where their son, Chantz, was born. In 1998, they returned to Oklahoma, making their home in Elk City. Terrell's diverse career path reflected his adaptable nature and varied interests. In his youth he tried ranching, played guitar in a band, worked in Oregon's logging industry, and later drilled water wells, constructed steel buildings and worked drilling oil wells in Venezuela. His passion for learning led him to become a math and science teacher, where he did his best to educate anyone who wanted to learn before returning to his work in steel construction. He loved going to school. He liked it so much that he never really stopped, attending college variously in Sayre, Panhandle A&M, Weatherford, Ohio Wesleyan, OU, and Texas Tech. He earned his last degree (a Masters in Psychology) at the age of 62. He would have continued even then, but he sent his son to college instead. A lifelong learner and craftsman, Terrell was always engaged in projects involving carpentry or welding, and often 'Fixing' things to make them work how he thought they should. He felt satisfaction in creating things with his hands and lived to drink coffee with

friends at local gathering spots, where despite his rough edges his friendship enriched many lives. He was a complex and capable man, as argumentative as he was kind, devoted to his family, and true to his moral compass even when it was difficult. He is survived by his children, Terri Jayne Drake and David Chantz Drake; and his grandchildren, Tawny Kalen Collins, Gary Madison Moorhead, Evelyn Winter Bohrer-Dozoretz, Aurora Jayne Drake, Galen Grey Drake, and Leo Rett Drake. David is preceded in death by his wife Loretta Jane Drake, parents Carl and Johnnie Drake, and sisters Twylah Mae Smith, and Sammie Jo McClintick.

A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, 2:00 P.M., at the cemetery in Willow, Oklahoma, followed by a gathering of friends and family at the Willow Community Center.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials for Terrell be made to the Willow Cemetery Association at PO Box 158, Willow OK 73673 or to the Carnegie Library in Elk City.

Online condolences for David can be made by visiting www.peoplescooperativefuneralhome.com .

Cemetery Details

Willow Cemetery

N1940 Rd
Willow, OK

Previous Events

Family Directed Graveside Memorial Service

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Willow Cemetery
N1940 Rd
Willow, OK

Tribute Wall

EF

“ I had just rented a space in the Coffee Shop. "Mr." is what he said his name was. Days go by, and Mr. is always there! All day! Even running errands for the coffee shop. And, this old man builds barns!? Once I realized he was the "cool table", I found my seat. Those were some of the best memories! We discussed *EVERTHING*, appropriate or not, occasionally offending someone. It never felt like going to work with Mr. Drake at that table. With at least 40 years difference, it seemed an unlikely friendship but one I cherished for 17 years. He was smart, witty, cultured, opinionated, interesting, and entertaining. He never seemed to mind my rough edges, I knew when I asked for wisdoms, there was no B.S. I loved how he never used Loretta's name, but Sweetie. I was mostly sure he liked my company back, so, I just claimed the Drake's as my people. We had amazing discussions, survived life obstacles, we did coffee shop crawls (none were like Rebecca's), even coffee at the gym like some kind of gym rats! Mr. always had stories about his life's adventures and current politics. I enjoyed most of his stories and I absolutely loved our time together. Our coffees eventually wound up in the living room, me sitting on a walker and yelling at him, but we still had lots of laughs! It's been an honor to call Mr. Drake my friend. With so much love and respect, may my dear old friend rest in peace.

Emily Frey - March 14, 2025 at 09:56 PM

JS

“ Terrell loved to learn and share knowledge. He introduced us to the folk scene in *The Breaks*, inspiring a lifetime of joy playing and composing music. When personal computers became a thing he told me about bits and bytes and words and double words, inspiring pursuit of advanced education in computer science and mathematics which led to a thirty-one year career in software engineering that was as enjoyable as it was lucrative. And his love of learning about anything and everything continues inspiring my life-long desire to know more. I am, and will be forever grateful for his positive influence in my life.

Joe Summars - February 22, 2025 at 05:00 AM

CD

Hi Joe,

Thank you for the nice comment. Dad talked about you often. He got me into math and programming early in life, and it's served me well also.

Chantz Drake - March 12, 2025 at 08:44 AM