



## Delora Simpkins Mealor

March 24, 1923 - January 16, 2026

Delora Jennings Simpkins Mealor passed from this life on January 16, 2026, at her home in Saint Ann's Assisted Living, with family and friends at her bedside. She was 102 years and 10 months old. Delora was born on March 24, 1923, in Sentinel, Oklahoma to Marlin and Ruth (Huckaby) Jennings. Her father was a farmer in the Retrop area and her mother a hard-working farmer's wife and mother of 5. Delora had 3 older sisters: Velma, Monna, and Doris, and a younger brother Sam. They were a close-knit family, growing up in SW Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression of the 1930's. Delora said that they always had plenty of food and that her mom often put extra food in their lunch buckets to share with any hungry kids at school. At home, they loved playing cards, dominos, wahoo, and tried hard to win! My cousins and I loved hearing them laughing together and telling stories of growing up on the farm and school on Retrop. Delora met Dow Simpkins at school, and married him in 1941, after she graduated high school. She moved to Wichita, KS where he had a job at the Cessna plant. He had a place rented for them to live in a lady's home boarding house- her first time to live in a home with indoor plumbing and electricity! She was 18 years old, away from home for the first time, didn't know anyone, and often took the train from Wichita to Elk City to see family and friends. They lived several places over the years, and moved to Lone Wolf in 1960, when Dow's job with Farmer's Home Administration transferred him to the Hobart office. They had 34 years together. They had 1 baby girl who died at birth, and raised 2 daughters, Anne

and Becky. Anne died at age 49, from heart disease, in 2000. Dow died suddenly from a heart attack at age 56. Anne and husband Mark Ford had one daughter, Christa, who was Delora's only granddaughter. They were very close and lived together for several years. Becky and husband Neil Garrison had no children but had many animals that Delora enjoyed. She loved animals and had several interesting pets including a prairie dog named Bo-Bo, a pig named Olivia, a sheep named Booger, a sheep named Gussie, and all the family's dogs and cats over the years, that chose her to be their favorite person. Delora married Allan Mealor in 1984. They both enjoyed family and friend get-togethers, card games, sleeping in, and traveling. They took several fun trips and cruises where they often roamed around the ships late at night and got invited to crew parties, which were always a high point of their trips. She and Allan had 20 years of marriage, when he passed away in 2004. His daughter Dorothy and grandson Jimmy have always remained close with our family. Delora had many interesting jobs including hoeing and picking cotton, raising orphaned sheep, being a long distance telephone operator, running a photography studio, teaching swimming for Lone Wolf School, and at Quartz Mountain Lodge, and girl scout camp during the summers, running the Lone Wolf Tag Agency, being an apartment manager in OKC, and working in Wiley Post Airport- where she once met President Jimmy Carter! Her most exciting and challenging job was being a "Rosie the Riveter" at Cessna-Boeing Plant in Wichita, KS after Dow left his job there in 1943 for pilot training in WW2. She climbed a tall ladder and handled the heavy rivet gun, working on tail sections of B-52's and B-17 Bombers. The plant was running 24 hours a day to support the war effort, and she often worked the night shift. She said it was important to do a perfect job because Dow may fly in a plane that she worked on. She took the work boots for her parents to see- her dad asked what she wore on her head to protect it and she answered, "A hair net." HE just shook his head and walked away! Delora received special recognition for being a "Rosie" in December 2024 at a big celebration in Tulsa to honor Oklahoma women in aviation and aerospace, and she was awarded the "Pearl of the

Year” award. In 2017, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to mark March 21 as “National Rosie the Riveter Day”. On March 13, 2025, Delora was honored at the state capital and was presented a citation in honor of the “Pearl of the Year” award, and “2025 Rosie the Riveter Day” recognition. She was treated like royalty and loved every minute of it. Special thanks to her great niece, Crystal Campbell, and our new friend Sandra Shelton, who were instrumental in this recognition for Delora. She always said that her favorite job was being a mom, and she was great at it, being involved in activities like 4-H, school trips, girl scouts, family vacations, music lessons, attending church, and always welcoming friends and family to our home, any day, any time. Delora was a member of the Lone Wolf Methodist Church and Surrey Hills Baptist Church. She loved Hymns, the fellowship of bible studies, Sunday school, and the friends who she met for breakfast on Tuesday mornings. Delora was well known for her witty sense of humor, generosity, quick smile, and giving the best hugs! She enjoyed wearing pretty clothes, jewelry, red lipstick, mani-pedis, family parties, hair appointments, funny stories, dark chocolate, red wine, and margaritas. She was often late for... everything, and said, “If you get there early, you have to wait for the late people, so might as well be late.” Big smile and a wink. There were lots of memorable changes in her lifetime including indoor plumbing and electricity, TV’s, microwave ovens, computers, air conditioners, cell phones, airline traveling, and fast-food places! We want to give a special “Thank you” to the staff at Saint Ann’s for their patience and love, and to Alara Home Health and Hospice for their care and expertise.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Macular Degeneration Research/ Bright Focus.

Delora requested that her favorite color, red, be worn at her service.

Celebration of life for Delora will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 1:00 P.M., at Surrey Hills Baptist Church, Yukon, Oklahoma, with Pastor Brett Selbey officiating.

Online condolences for Delora can be made by visiting [www.peoplescooperativfuneralhome.com](http://www.peoplescooperativfuneralhome.com) .

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB **10**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Surrey Hills Baptist Church  
12421 N Mustang Rd  
Yukon, OK 73099-8148  
(405) 373-2139

# Tribute Wall



“ *People's Co-operative Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Delora Simpkins Mealor*

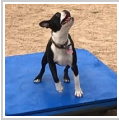


People's Cooperative Funeral Home - February 17 at 11:48 AM

BS

*I LOVE THIS* 😍

Becky Simpkins - February 17 at 12:41 PM

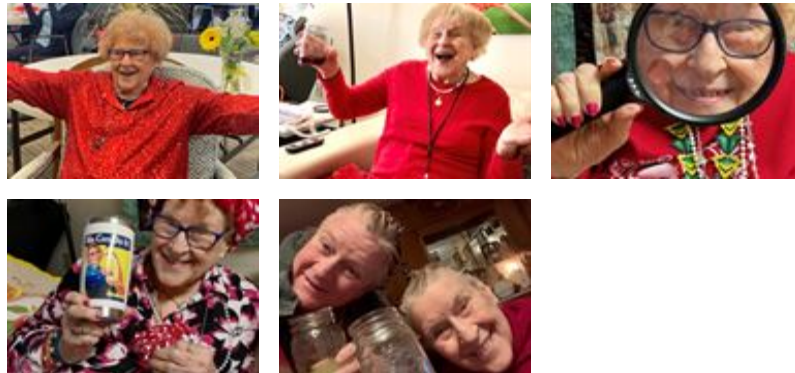


*Fantastic video and music. You done good!*

Terry Smalling - February 17 at 07:25 PM



“ *107 files added to the album LifeTributes*



People's Cooperative Funeral Home - February 17 at 11:41 AM

JT

“ Jimmy , evia & troy purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Delora Simpkins Mealor.



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Jimmy , evia & troy - February 09 at 10:28 AM

JT

“ Jimmy , evia & troy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Delora Simpkins Mealor.

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Jimmy , evia & troy - February 09 at 10:28 AM

MF

“ Mark & Beth Ford & Christa Ford purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Delora Simpkins Mealor.



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Mark & Beth Ford & Christa Ford - February 06 at 05:15 PM

DR

“ Dorothy Nall, Leigh, & Rio-- purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Delora Simpkins Mealor.



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Dorothy Nall, Leigh, & Rio-- - February 06 at 02:39 PM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Delora Simpkins Mealor.*



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February 05 at 06:56 AM



“ *Dina and the kids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Delora Simpkins Mealor.*

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**Dina and the kids** - February 05 at 06:56 AM



“ *What an honour and delight to have known this wonderful women. We first met 40 years ago and then visited again 7 years ago. Her memory will live amongst us in Australia. My condolences to all of her friends and family. From her Aussie family the Parkers.*

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**Joe Parker** - February 02 at 08:59 PM



*Thank you so much. Delora was fascinated by you all, and loved you truly 😊❤️ Thanks for all the lovely attention you have given us over the years, & now especially.*

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**Becky Simpkins** - February 08 at 02:03 PM

HF

“ Hoffman Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Delora Simpkins Mealor.



Hoffman Family - February 02 at 08:56 PM

AM

“ Condolences to all of Delora’s family but especially to my friend, Becky. I remember Delora coming to visit Becky in Oakland California when we were together in the US Navy. Like Becky, Mom was always interested and welcoming of new experiences and all people. May she rest in peace.

Anne Mulligan - February 02 at 07:42 PM

BS

Thank you Annie❤️

Becky Simpkins - February 08 at 02:04 PM

SB

“ Delora was always so kind. She had the biggest smile and seemed to always be happy and young at heart. You never knew what was going to come out of her mouth. What a life she lived! I’m sure she is living it up in heaven and enjoying her sisters and Anne.

SE Bargman - February 02 at 07:20 PM

BS

Thanks so much❤️

Becky Simpkins - February 04 at 06:16 PM

LB

“ *Becky I'm so sorry for your loss, what a bright shining star she was. Her obituary is like a biography that leaves the readers wanting more details of her beautiful life. I loved reading about her interesting life experiences and I know from personal experience that she shared happiness with everyone that knew her. What a blessing she was and is dearly missed by all. Again, my condolences, thinking about you during this difficult time, Lesa Baxter*

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**Lesa Baxter** - February 02 at 06:06 PM

BS

*At family reunions, I generally stayed with the sisters because of the laughs and happiness*

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**brent smalling** - February 02 at 08:05 PM

ED

“ *Here is a picture of Momma surrounded by some of her girls at a party, of course. Also a picture of another party enjoying martinis. Delora was a force, and to know her was to love her. That woman KNEW how to hug. She is so missed. Elyse Deal*



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**Elyse Deal** - February 02 at 05:57 PM

BS

*Thank you Elyse. You KNOW she always loved all the compliments & attention from you & all her special friends 😊*

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**Becky Simpkins** - February 08 at 02:06 PM

PF

“ Well done BJ.

*Long live Dame Delora - she taught us "When cornered, giggle",  
gave the best hard hugs & smiles aplenty, & oozed Goodness, with  
a pinch of mischief. We shine bright knowing her & her kin* 🌸🌍🐇



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**Parker family** - February 02 at 05:52 PM

BS

*Thank you DeJoy.. you & Joe were always special friends from down  
under on our globe!*

*It was such a delight getting to meet your sweet daughters, & I will  
always recall how Mom loved playing cards with you all, & brushing  
Alys's hair* 😍❤️

*Best Bluegrass Fest*

*Ev-er* 🍷🍷🍷

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**Becky Simpkins** - February 08 at 02:14 PM