OBITUARY

Melvanna Lee Baddley
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Melvanna Lee Handley Baddley, 74, beloved wife of James Richard (Jim) Baddley, passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior on January 4, 2019, following a courageous battle with cancer. She was devoted to her family, strong in her faith and had a big heart for others.

Vanna was born on March 22, 1944, to Melvin Hobbs Handley and Anna Marie Alexander Handley in Port Angeles, Washington. Growing up, she lived in many places throughout the United States, as her father served as a Lt. Commander with the United States Coast Guard.

While her family was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi, she met the love of her life and married Jim in 1963. They settled in Clinton, Mississippi, where they raised their three children and made it home until moving to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, in 2011.

Vanna attended the University of Mississippi and later earned a nursing degree from Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. She was a credit to her profession, a great match for her caring nature, and served in positions with local physicians, nursing homes and at the Mississippi College infirmary.

In addition to her love for her family, of whom she was most proud, Vanna adored dogs and shared her life with many four-legged loved ones over the years. She was passionate about Christmas, her favorite time of the year, and spread Christmas cheer in many, many ways.

Infinitely inventive and creative, she enjoyed sewing, ceramics, doll making and crafts and had a passion for reading. Vanna also had a love of the outdoors and camping. She shared this joy with her children and others through organizing many family camping trips and serving as a Girl Scout leader for many years, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Vanna enjoyed the opportunity to serve others, and her considerate heart endeared her to those she met. After being treated for breast cancer, she began a ministry to other cancer patients. Many times throughout the year, she would assemble and distribute bags of blessings to those treated at the local cancer center. While passing out the special gift bags, Vanna would also share words of hope and encouragement and many, many hugs with all those receiving care, exemplifying the love of her Savior, Jesus Christ. She was deeply loved by many and will be remembered for her quick wit and smile, strength of character and kind and compassionate spirit.

Vanna is survived by Jim, her loving husband of 55 years; three children, Melanie Baddley Evans and husband, Eddie of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Scot Lee Baddley and wife, Janice of Simpsonville, South Carolina; Virginia Baddley Byrd, and husband, Jon of Meridian, Mississippi; and six grandchildren, Chris Evans of Houston, Texas; Jonathan Baddley and wife Amy of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Olivia Baddley of Bluffton, South Carolina; Alex Evans of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Hannah Byrd of Jackson, Mississippi, and Jon Handley Byrd of Meridian, Mississippi.

A funeral service was held at East Cross United Methodist Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on Wednesday, January 9, at 2 p.m. with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. immediately prior to the service. Interment and graveside services will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to East Cross United Methodist Church, 820 S Madison Blvd., Bartlesville, OK 74006.