



## Melinda Gouge

July 22, 1982 - November 18, 2018

Melinda Jennifer Gouge of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed away Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the age of 36.

A funeral service honoring her life will be held Saturday, November 24, 2018 at Broken Arrow Indian Methodist Church with burial following at Vernon Cemetery. Also, there will be a wake service Friday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm at the church.

Melinda was born Tuesday, July 22, 1982 in Zwolle, Holland to Leonard and Johnna (Deere) Gouge. She was very much a girly girl, her favorite color was pink, wearing anything sparkly and showing off her curly hair. She was a beautiful young lady, with a beautiful smile; she was a smart, loving, caring, compassionate and trusting person, who loved to laugh and joke around and especially with her dad whom she lovingly called her "FAJA". She enjoyed spending time with children and the elderly. Most of all she loved spending time with her family and her nephews and nieces their name for her was "Aunt Inda" because they couldn't pronounce Melinda. Melinda was a foster parent to Trey Edwardsen, whom she loved and enjoyed tremendously. Melinda never met a stranger she was loved by all and had a wide range of friends. She enjoyed reading, watching Walt Disney movies and learning how to cook with her mom.

Melinda attended elementary school in Norman, Coweta and Muskogee where she graduated from High School in 2001. She then went to Albuquerque and attended Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. She returned to Oklahoma where she attended the College of the Muskogee Creek Nation. She eventually moved to Oklahoma City and worked for several years at Old Navy where she was a store manager.

Melinda was of the Wind Clan and Kialegee Tribal Town and she attended Arbeka Ceremonial Ground. She was a member of the Salt Creek Indian United Methodist Church. She was proud of her native background.

Survivors include:

Parents Leonard and Johnna Gouge of Broken Arrow

Grandmother Minnie Gouge

Cousins Sukey Deere, Maria Todd, Tenetke, Kosa and Poskova Deere

Nephews and Nieces 8 Nephews and 2 nieces

Many Aunts, Uncles and numerous cousins

Melinda is predeceased by:

Grandparents Kenneth and Joann Deere

Grandfather Felix Gouge

Great parents Eli Deere, Melissa Long-Deere, John and Fannie Chalakee

# Cemetery Details

## Vernon Cemetery

Coweta, OK

# Previous Events

## Wake

NOV **23**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church  
20854 E. 141st St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

## Funeral Service

NOV **24**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church  
20854 E. 141st St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

# Tribute Wall



“ *Melinda Gouge*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Brian Edwardsen lit a candle in memory of Melinda Gouge*



**Brian Edwardsen** - November 26, 2018 at 08:58 PM



“ I met Melinda 8+ years ago when I started working at Old Navy & we just clicked...like we had been friends for years! One night, as we were closing, Melinda was pulling the register drawers & I was separating on-line returns and I pulled out a pair of size 50 inch mens shorts....I showed them to Melinda and she said "OMG, MiMi, I bet we could both fit into those shorts at the same time.....so, of course, we did. Both her legs, up to her waist was in the left leg, mine body was in the right leg....we tried walking together in this one pair of shorts, both laughing so hard we both had tears rolling down our faces, even as we both fell to the ground...we had entirely too much fun when we worked together!!

One of Melindas' strengths was always encouraging others to be their best selves!

For her loving family, my hope is that tender mercies will reveal themselves as your spirit expands into quiet understanding.

Remember that Melinda is all around you, and most importantly, she is present in every moment.....this will not go quietly, nor will it go quickly.

Although we've lost a beautiful soul, we have all been blessed with the friendship, laughter & love that Melinda so freely gave.

In this life, she gave more than she ever received!


There is a line in one of R.R. Milnes' 'Winnie the Pooh' stories, and it reads:

"...if ever there's a time that we can't be together, just keep me in your heart, and I'll stay there forever!".....And that's just where I will always keep Melinda.....Rest in Peace, Sweet Angel

Friend.....Love, MiMi

---

**Mindy Lee** - November 26, 2018 at 03:34 PM

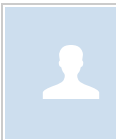
  
Kaeisha  
Brown

“ *This was the last picture I took with this beauti before I left the Old Navy family. Im truly gonna miss her.*



---

**Kaeisha Brown** - November 23, 2018 at 11:13 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melinda Gouge.*



---

November 23, 2018 at 11:04 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy. -Bonnie and Lee*

---

**Lee** - November 23, 2018 at 06:46 PM

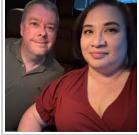


“ *Melinda and I we managers together at Old Navy. We were a strong team together and she was always uplifting and loving to any and everyone as well as a hard worker. Rest in paradise sweetheart. You are loved and missed by many!❤️*



---

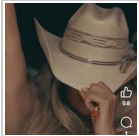
**Tanner Hewell** - November 23, 2018 at 06:02 PM



“ *Angelena Judkins lit a candle in memory of Melinda Gouge*



-----  
**Angelena Judkins** - November 23, 2018 at 08:50 AM



“ *Melinda was a very loyal and trusted friend. Beautiful inside and out. My condolences to her family.*



-----  
**Jessie Cooper** - November 22, 2018 at 11:28 PM



“ *Melinda was one of my managers at Old Navy and I only enjoyed coming to work if I know she'd be there. One of her best qualities was how she could change a room with her laugh and spirit. I didn't know Melinda very long but I loved her nonetheless. I'm so sorry to the family and especially Trey. Thinking of you all and sending prayers. Melinda will dearly be missed.*

-----  
**Annie Roberts** - November 21, 2018 at 10:18 PM



“ *Jamie Harbison lit a candle in memory of Melinda Gouge*



-----  
**Jamie Harbison** - November 21, 2018 at 08:34 PM

Jamie Harbison

“ I'll miss your smile and the way you lit a room up by just walking into it. You're my best friend, my sister....fly high girl.



Jamie Harbison - November 21, 2018 at 07:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melinda Gouge.



November 21, 2018 at 11:51 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Melinda Gouge.



November 21, 2018 at 08:34 AM



“ Jacki Boulanger purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Melinda Gouge.



Jacki Boulanger - November 21, 2018 at 08:15 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melinda Gouge.*



---

November 20, 2018 at 09:57 PM



“ *Rest in Peace beautiful.*



---

**Tiffany Mayo** - November 20, 2018 at 09:33 PM



“ *Rebecca Byrd Barnett lit a candle in memory of Melinda Gouge*



---

**Rebecca Byrd Barnett** - November 20, 2018 at 02:39 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Leonard and Lisa and the Gouge Family. Prayers for comfort and strength.*



---

**KoKo Lowe** - November 20, 2018 at 02:27 PM

NI

“ *I will always remember Melinda by her infectious laugh and beautiful smile, she was always in good spirits.*

**Nancy Priscilla Iven** - November 20, 2018 at 01:51 PM

BF

“ *Bonnie Factor lit a candle in memory of Melinda Gouge*



**Bonnie factor** - November 20, 2018 at 06:47 AM

HH

“ *It is our honor and privilege to serve the Gouge family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Melinda*



**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - November 18, 2018 at 08:03 AM

JF

*Melinda our young cousin....a beautiful girl inside and out. Love n prayers for Jed, Leonard, family, n friends.*

**Jo n Paul Fixico** - November 20, 2018 at 07:42 PM