



## Norma Welker

June 19, 1940 - July 20, 2020

Norma Jean Welker was born in Covina, California on Wednesday, June 19, 1940 the baby girl with 4 older brothers to Lawrence and Opal (Macy) Mailes. She passed from this life on Monday, July 20, 2020 in Tulsa.

Her family moved to Seneca, Missouri when she was still a toddler to be closer to their extended families. She attended schools in Seneca and graduated from Seneca High School on May 28, 1958 and married Norris Welker one day later. Since she was only 17 years of age, her parents had to sign the marriage certificate giving their permission and blessing. She and Norris were happily married for 62 years.

She was able to be a stay at home mom until the children were settled in school. By that time, Norris had graduated from Law School, passed the bar, and began his practice in McAlester. Norma was his office manager for 15 years as they grew the practice. When asked about their mother's hobbies, her children agreed that her family was her hobby. She loved cooking family dinners for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Not to say that they did not like to eat out. Her favorite was Mexican food, especially at El Tequila. One of Norma's granddaughters thought she was Hispanic because that was her favorite place to eat. Norma was so proud of all her kids and was often told that she had the "best kids". She never argued with that sentiment. She and Norris loved to travel. Her favorites were the beaches in Florida.

Norma was often found bargain shopping. Some of her favorite places were Dillard's, TJ Max, and Marshalls. She was a talented seamstress who made some of her children's clothes when they were younger. She loved photography and became a certified photographer. Norma also loved selling jewelry. Always with an entrepreneurial spirit, she and a dear friend, Janie Nickles, started a jewelry business that they ran for several years. She was "Mimi" to her grands and greats and always told her family "I love you." She adored babies and had a magic touch whenever she held one of them. One of her favorite sayings was, "This too shall pass." She was a beautiful lady, both inside and out and will be missed by many.

Norma is survived by:

Daughter Sherri McElroy and her husband, Bowden of Broken Arrow

Daughter Gina Howell and her husband, Richard of Houston, Texas

Daughter Lori Gudgel of Tulsa

Son Gregory Welker and his wife, Valerie of Broken Arrow

Brother: Ron Mailes of Sherman, Texas

Grandchildren: Kathleen Hilton, Kristeen Kidd, Dylan Howell, Brett Gudgel, Caroline Daggett, Kimberly McElroy, Brooke Gudgel, Brandon Howell, Carly Gudgel and Vivian Welker.

Great Grandchildren: Paisley, Jentry, Conall, Clara, Wyatt, Avery, Macy and Declan

As well as numerous nieces and nephews

She was preceded in death by her parents: Lawrence and Opal Mailes, her husband: Norris Welker and three brothers: Eldon Mailes, Jim Mailes, and Roy Mailes

# Cemetery Details

## Park Grove Cemetery

1000 W. Houston St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 259-8691

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUL **24**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

JUL **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

---

JUL **25**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Norma Welker*

---

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Welker family: I am so sad for the loss of your Mother. I practiced law in McAlester for many years and Norma, as well as your Father, Norris, were good friends and good people, and I enjoyed their company and especially their tales of travel, which I know they enjoyed and missed in the last few years, We now live in Florida and when I was told of Norris' death, I finally got a phone number (your Mom had an archaic land line!) and had a good visit with your Mother and we spoke of old times in McAlester and the respect I had for your Father. Norris was a well respected and knowledgeable attorney and I visited often with him to help me out of a quandary or advice on legal questions which I needed help. I always told my wife I enjoyed my association on several cases where we helped each other find the best avenue for our client's problems. She always said I liked to see Norris so I could also visit with Norma about the other's travels! To be honest, I just liked to sit and talk with Norma. Not a more pleasant, fun-loving person to be around. You siblings, grand children, and great grand children will surely and sorely miss Norris and Norma and I share your loss and wish a the family well. Two people couldn't be more proud of you and a legacy they leave.*

*Wesley and Emmy Brown*

---

**Wesley Brown** - July 26, 2020 at 11:09 PM

PS

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Welker. May your memories be forever engraved in your hearts and may her spirit of love and living be a guide to her family in years to come.

Patti Pitcock. Union Public Schools - July 24, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Norma Welker.



July 24, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norma Welker.



July 23, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norma Welker.



July 23, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ *Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Norma Welker.*



---

July 23, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Norma Welker.*



---

July 23, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ *Patty, Jerry, Marybeth and their families purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Norma Welker.*



---

**Patty, Jerry, Marybeth and their families.** - July 22, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ *We were so saddened to hear of Norma's passing. She was a lovely lady who was kind, caring, friendly and fun! She and Norris will continue their journey together in peace and love. We send our love and prayers to all. May God comfort you in the sad loss of your parents with all the happy memories.*

---

**Tom Becky Gudgel** - July 22, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norma Welker.*



---

July 22, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ *Hayhurst Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Norma Welker*



---

**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - July 21, 2020 at 04:11 AM