



## Susan Kay Spencer

November 10, 1933 - January 24, 2026

SUSAN KAY THORNHAM SPENCER, age 92, of Denver, Colorado, died January 24, 2026, surrounded by the loving presence of family members. She was born in Austin, Texas, on November 10, 1933, to Jesse Simeon Thornham and Sally Kate Pressley Thornham. She has one brother, J.S. "Sam" Thornham of Denver, Colorado.

Susan lived in Austin, Dallas and Abilene, Texas, before her family moved to Oklahoma City when she was fifteen. She graduated from Oklahoma City's Classen High School in 1952. She is a graduate of the last class of Oklahoma A& M College in 1956, after which, it became known as Oklahoma State University.

Susan married John Riley Spencer of Coalgate, Oklahoma, an A& M graduate in 1955, on August 11, 1956. They were married 63 years, until John's death in 2019.

The couple settled in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, after living in El Paso, Texas; Zweibrucken, West Germany; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Susan was a housewife and preschool teacher, a long-time volunteer for the Margaret Hudson Program as a hugger and for Meals on Wheels. She was an active member of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church for many decades, before moving to Denver, Colorado just a few years ago. Susan taught

preschool in St. Stephen's weekday school for 12 years and taught preschool Sunday School for many years as well. She was also an active member of United Methodist Women.

As friendships were numerous and a lifelong source of support and joy to Susan, she, in turn, is remembered as having been a close and loving friend to so many. Her sweet smile and unique infectious laugh will be sorely missed.

Susan was predeceased by her husband, John, their infant son, John David Spencer, her parents and her beloved niece, Kate Thornham. She is survived by her son Robert, a retired physician in Denver, Colorado, and his wife Tammy; son James, an architect in Dallas, Texas, and his wife Stacy; and by her son, Todd, a United Methodist minister, spiritual director and leadership coach in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and his wife Debi. She has six grandchildren: Matthew, Madeline, Bobby, Brenna, Lukas and Ethan. She is also survived by her brother, Sam; two nieces, Hilary Thornham and Alena Jo Arnold Gleason, and two nephews, Kyle Thornham and Patrick Thornham.

Funeral services, under the direction of Hayhurst Funeral Home, will be conducted at Hayhurst's Chapel in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma on Saturday, February 7 at 11:00 AM. The Rev. Dr. Sam Powers, a friend of Susan's son, Todd, will be officiating. Susan's final resting place will be in the National Cemetery at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, Susan's wishes were for donations to be made to the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care through St. Stephen's UMC, 400 W. New Orleans, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, 74011.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home

1660 South Elm Place

Broken Arrow, OK 74012

(918) 258-9623

hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Susan Kay Spencer



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Hayhurst Funeral Home - February 06 at 04:28 PM

RS

“ A number of the attendees of Mom's service requested copies of the poems that were read. Here are some:

Susan's brother, Sam Thornham, read "A Prayer In Spring" by Robert Frost:

*Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
All simply in the springing of the year.*

*Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.*

*And make us happy in the darting bird  
That suddenly above the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.*

*For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which it is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends He will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfill.*

*I read the following:*

*Quote by John Wesley:*

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*

*The Summer Day by Mary Oliver*

*Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean--  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?*

*Please Don't Cry At My Death by Earl F. Barfoot*

*Please don't cry at my death,  
Except as you remember the beauty of life,  
And cry, as one does,  
In the presence of mystery . . .  
of the breathtaking beauty of creation.  
But, for my life, give thanks, with me, for me.  
Say, "It is complete,"  
"It has been perfected."  
And laugh and sing, with joy.*

*May these mean as much to you as they do to me.*

*Robert (Spencer)*

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**Robert Spencer** - February 09 at 08:53 PM

GS

“ Grace Design Studios - Healthcare Studio planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Kay Spencer.

Grace Design Studios - Healthcare Studio - February 05 at 11:23 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Susan Kay Spencer.



February 05 at 11:23 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Susan Kay Spencer.



February 05 at 11:22 AM

RB

“ I was in the 321st MP Det with Susan's husband John. He and Susan and I spent many visits in Broken Arrow and Tahlequah. I remember Susan fondly. She was a kind and lovely person and I enjoyed the time I spent with her. Rebecca Baughman, Tahlequah

Rebecca Baughman - February 04 at 09:21 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Susan Kay Spencer.*



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February 03 at 08:49 PM



“ *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue . . . Her children rise up and call her blessed.*  
*Proverbs 31 26, 28-29*



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**Schawn Kellogg** - February 01 at 02:09 PM

SK

“ Susan carried a light into all the places she came to be in... not loudly, but sincerely and steadily. That light did not fade with her passing; it remains, and is felt in the lives she touched. She was the kind of friend and neighbor who showed up when needed, to listen. To love. To offer of herself in ways we are increasingly challenged to recognize and practice in our world.

I knew Susan only in these most recent few years, but I can tell you without hesitation that she touched me. Our conversations came easily. Her wisdom did not fade even when her memory had; she carried a clarity of spirit that I deeply admires and will carry with me as an example of what aging gracefully and authentically can look like.

I trust that she is now enjoying a reunion with her God and with those who passed before her, and that thought delights me. Thank you, Todd, for introducing me to Susan. May you each find peace in your memories and your faith.

Love, Schawn (and Eric)



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Schawn Kellogg - February 01 at 02:04 PM

JG

“ Jan Gordon lit a candle in memory of Susan Kay Spencer



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jan gordon - February 01 at 04:34 AM

KC

“ *Susan Spencer was a pure spirit, one of the kindest, accepting and tolerant, persons ever to inhabit the earth. May she rest in peace.*  
*Karen Carlton, St Stephens UMC.*

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**Karen and Ed Carlton** - January 29 at 10:37 PM

MB

“ *Mary K Baird lit a candle in memory of Susan Kay Spencer*



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**Mary K Baird** - January 29 at 03:34 PM