



## Billie Joan English

January 26, 1931 - July 19, 2008

Billie Joan English passed from this life on July 19, 2008. Mrs English was born on January 26, 1931 to Joseph Marion Clark and Sula Hamby Clark. According to Mrs. English, her place of birth was a cabin at the foot of a Kiamichi Mountain where Pine Creek empties into the Kiamichi River. Both streams were about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile or less from the cabin.

She attended public schools in Moyers, Antlers and Grant, Oklahoma. She graduated from Grant High School in 1948. She attended Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas, Southeastern State University, East Central State and the University of Oklahoma. She received her bachelors degree from Southeastern and her masters degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Mrs. English was a member of the First Baptist Church of Elmore City. Funeral services will be held there on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at the hour of 2:00 p.m.. Burial will be in Sunny Lane Cemetery in Del City. She was also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by her sons, James I. English, III and David English and his wife, Hope, one beloved granddaughter, Megan Hope English, two brothers, David Clark of Texas and James Clark and his wife, Cheri, of Ardmore, and two sisters, Margaret Jolley of Edmond and Marilyn Gilhuly and her husband, Michael, of Marietta, Georgia. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. English taught at Elmore City, Maysville and Central State University. She also worked for the Oklahoma Department of Education. From these careers of 42 years in education, she is survived by a host of friends and hundreds of former students. She loved her students and they loved her. In 2003, she was honored by her former students at Elmore City by having the local library named for her.

Mrs. English was a writer along with her friend, Sharon Cooper Calhoun. She published Oklahoma Heritage, Oklahoma Adventure, The Wisconsin Story and Wisconsin Adventure. She also wrote a civil war novel entitled The Price of Blood.

A saying written inside the cover of her favorite Bible summarized how she ended her life: "When we have done all the work we were sent to earth to do, we are allowed to shed our bodies, which imprisons our souls like a cocoon encloses the future butterfly. And when

the time is right, we can let go of it, and we will be free of pain, free of fears and worries – free as a very beautiful butterfly, returning home to God.”

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Billie Joan English Library at Elmore City, the Youth Department of Elmore City, First Baptist Church or to Oklahoma Baptist Children’s Homes. Services are under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home. You may send a condolence to the family at [www.woosterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.woosterfuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church- Elmore City  
103 S. Arkansas  
Elmore City, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ *Billie Joan English*

November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *David,*

*I just wanted to say that your mom would be so proud of the message you gave at her funeral. It was not only beautiful, but it was powerful. It was the perfect time to point to the narrow gate that many will not go through because they do not understand what is required in following Jesus. He said "Be Holy, because I am Holy".*

*Thanks again.*

*Dan and Carolyn (Adkins) Croom###imported-begin##Carolyn Adkins Croom###imported-end##*

August 02, 2008 at 05:58 PM



“ *Jim and family, Bill and I are in Buffalo, NY at the moment visiting Bill's family. Ace sent us an email telling us about your Mom's passing. We are so sorry for your loss, and want you to know you are in our thoughts. It has been so many years since we have seen you. Thinking of you and please get in touch and update us. Blessings always, Sondra and Bill Cownie aka, White Owl###imported-begin##Bill and Sondra Cownie###imported-end##*

July 25, 2008 at 12:34 PM



“ I loved you, Billie Joan English, first as my teacher, my mentor and then as my good friend. I credit your teachings with my need for the everyday use of good grammar and my love of the reading of exciting literature. (Now watch me make a grammatical mistake!) I heard you had a peaceful death. I am so thankful you are no longer sick nor in pain. We have discussed the cycle of life in the past so I know you were ready to go home when your body no longer served your mind or vice versa.

Jamie may remember me from Debbie Hampton or Bobby Rennie's law office in the early '90s. Marilyn (Bitsy) may remember me from EC high school by a stretch. David never knew me, but he did know my baby sister, Patty.

I know your family will miss you terribly. I am sorry I did not take the time to call you as often as I should in the later years, but I cherish those four hour telephone conversations we used to have. (I want to tell Marilyn how excited you were telling me about her taking you to see the Chicago Bulls play in person.)

You were so proud of Jamie, David and Hope, and their successful lives. And Meagan, of course, was the best and brightest child without any prejudice in grandmother's eyes. Brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, you had good words to say about all of them.

As a testament to how your students loved you, just how many times were you elected as Senior Class Sponsor? And where you are now, you won't have to worry about an old Ag teacher giving you any flack because I feel certain he's not resting anywhere near you for eternity. Do you remember that after you had taught all five of us girls and then our brother, we bought you some gift that had "World's Greatest Teacher" on it. We thought we had really done something then as we had to pool all of our money, but I later learned that many, many students gave you gifts and you just added it to your menagerie.

I want to tell David and Jamie about a time in class you told of when they were preschool and one of them used a triple-negative, "AIN'T DONE IT NEITHER NO-HOW." You said you didn't know which you wanted to do most - teach him not to say "ain't" or attempt to explain multiple negatives to a preschooler, but instead you just laughed and enjoyed the moment while they were little. As the Nana of seven year old twin grandsons, I can appreciate the tales you told me of the boys whom you loved so dearly. When I reared my own son, there were three words he was not allowed to say. One of them was "ain't", one was "ni\*\*er" used by the Ag teacher in class to his Africa-American students to your dismay, and the other was the bad four-letter word. You instilled those values in me as a teacher and moral leader.

I can't attend your services, but you will be in my heart forever. My heartfelt sympathy is extended to all members of your family.

Sincerely,  
Wilma  
210 S. Paul Aveune  
Pauls Valley, OK 73075  
405-238-3804

*You are now with Sharon once again##imported-begin##Wilma (Tomlinson)  
Bettes Jones - EC '61##imported-end##*

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July 22, 2008 at 10:25 PM



“*Mrs. English was a beatiful beautiful person/educator. I know that she is taking charge in heaven as she did everyday on earth. I admired how much her family meant to her and she adored her grand daughter Megan. One of the last conversations I had with Mrs. English was about Megan. She called me and wanted to know where to send her to basketball camp. She only wanted the best for her family and friends. She is a true angel and will be deeply missed. My prayer go out to the family! James, David, and Megan..... I am so sorry for your loss. God Bless!##imported-begin##Daryla Combs##imported-end##*

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July 22, 2008 at 05:04 PM



“*"Her gentle soul has taken flight."  
Shakespeare, Hamlet##imported-begin##Neva Troy##imported-end##*

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July 22, 2008 at 08:44 AM



“ When a Giant in your life passes, it hurts. Mrs. English took this simple farm boy and showed me a world I never dreamed possible. I am the person I am today because of her. The perfect Teacher.

Now in my Hawaiian Home, I say No Ka Oi, Mrs. English, No Ka Oi. To my mentor in life ....Mahalo Nui Oui

Jerry Williams

Class of 1958##imported-begin##Jerry Williams##imported-end##

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July 21, 2008 at 10:57 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy. Family is in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Eldon & Monica Moffitt##imported-end##

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July 21, 2008 at 09:40 PM



“ Always my very best teacher##imported-begin##Paul & Lorna Keeling##imported-end##

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July 21, 2008 at 05:26 PM



“ Jim & Dave, so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. She always made me feel welcome in your home and always offered me encouragement as a first generation college student. You are in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Bill (Ace) Atkins##imported-end##

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July 21, 2008 at 03:40 PM



“ Just as the Butterfly sheds it's cocoon, you are free!##imported-begin##Ginger Dahlem (Virginia Hursh)##imported-end##

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July 21, 2008 at 01:21 PM



“ Mrs, English was thr teacher who inspired me to become a teacher. She was a wonderful lady and teacher.

Sue Blankenship DeGonia##imported-begin##sue degonia##imported-end##

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July 21, 2008 at 12:53 PM



“ Mrs. English inspired and encouraged (pushed) me to excel in all phases of my life. I thank God for teachers and Godly people like her in my life. I know her family will take comfort in knowing she touched so many lives in such a positive way.##imported-begin##Dale Wilson##imported-end##

July 21, 2008 at 12:20 PM



“ Mrs. English was one of God's gifts to education. Her love and passion for teaching greatly influenced many, if not all who knew her. I feel very blessed to have known her not only as an educator, but as a friend. She will always hold a very special place in my heart and I will miss her dearly. James and David, my thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Debbie (Combs) Robinson - MHS 1980##imported-end##

July 21, 2008 at 11:23 AM



“ Mrs. English touched a lot of lives and her rewards will be great. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Alice Bush (Reynolds)##imported-end##

July 21, 2008 at 10:47 AM



“ Dear Family:  
Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you during this time of loss. Mrs. Billie made a tremendous impact upon my life during my senior year in high school at Elmore City. She encouraged me to achieve great things in my life. I owe a lot to her friendship. May God comfort your hearts during this time.##imported-begin##Maxine Ladd Bridges##imported-end##

July 21, 2008 at 10:07 AM



“ Few people leave profound impressions on anyone. Mrs. English left a profound impression on every young mind fortunate enough to be touched and molded by her guidance, wisdom, and love. We are saddened by her passing, yet thrilled that she passed our way. James and David, thanks for sharing her with us all and may God bless you and give you strength.##imported-begin##Rick Cagle##imported-end##

July 21, 2008 at 03:42 AM



“ James and David,  
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful lady and teacher. She will be missed by the many students that she greatly influenced. I am so glad that she came to the class of 1974 thirty year class reunion. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Brenda Warren##imported-end##

July 20, 2008 at 10:36 PM



“ To the English Family:  
Your mother was one of the greatest influences on young people at Elmore City High School. She deeply influenced my life and i have used many things that she taught me as a teacher myself. my thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Richard Ward##imported-end##

July 20, 2008 at 05:43 PM



“ Mrs. English touched and influenced a lot of lives and although she'll be greatly missed.....she'll be fondly remembered.##imported-begin##Marquitta (Bell) Thompson##imported-end##

July 20, 2008 at 04:07 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Mrs English's passing she affected the lives of each student she ever taught. She will always be remembered by each one of us that was fortunate enough to have called her our TEACHER.##imported-begin##Robert & Peggy McCurdy##imported-end##

July 20, 2008 at 03:38 PM



“ She was one of the best teachers.##imported-begin##Louise Gregg Rankin##imported-end##

July 20, 2008 at 12:41 PM



“ I am sorry to see Mrs. English leave us. She was one of the first inspirations of my life. I will never forget what she taught me and her energy in doing so helped me to become the professor I am today. Ed Fowler##imported-begin##Edwin Ray Fowler##imported-end##

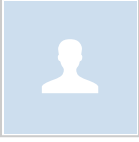
July 20, 2008 at 11:01 AM



“ Mrs. English contributed greatly to the education of my family. Even though I only had her for one year before she went to Maysville, I am very appreciative of what she did for me. My thought and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Randy Reynolds##imported-end##

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July 20, 2008 at 10:42 AM



“ To Jamey and Davey and all of the other relatives.....I am so sad today to hear of the loss of one of the greatest influences in my life. If it had not been for your precious mother, I would have never attended college, much less have taught school for 35 years. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Linda (Hill) Chappell##imported-begin##Linda (Hill-Blankenship) Chappell##imported-end##

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July 20, 2008 at 09:33 AM