

A Word From the Publisher

A Tribute to Mom

Last week was a very difficult week. Roger's mom, Rosalie West, passed away Wednesday, September 15. I was privileged to have her as my mother-in-law however I called her mom. She was one of the most precious, sweetest ladies I have ever known. Mom was a strong willed 94 years old. She never lost her spunk and her mind was sharp until the very end. For that I am thankful. For the last couple of weeks she continued to tell us (her family) that she was so tired. With the tiredness she also became weak. In the midst of her weakened



condition she remained faithful to God. Before eating her last meal she took the time to pray to her Lord and Savior. What a saint she was.

Mom had such a great memory. She and Roger would talk many times about when they lived in Garden City (Jacksonville). She could easily remember everyone's name that lived around them and their families. Callahan has had many 'Garden City' people move here. Once several of them received our paper, they would come to see me to find out the family connection. Almost all the people first asked about mom and how she was. What an amazing life she lived.

Even though Dad West has been gone many years, she continued to attend Sunday school and church faithfully. She was one of the strongest Prayer Warriors around. Once she quite driving it was quite a change for her. That's when the children, grandchildren, cousins, friends stepped up. She would come up with a plan for the day, get a driver and off they would go. She has been to more different restaurants than Roger and I have. Someone would tell her about a good place to eat and she would go. While out, she normally had a plan to ride around a certain area after eating. She loved to ride and look at things and places. Even though her eyesight was failing she could still find the beauty in God's creation.

Roger & I have some great memories of her coming to our house to see what he had added or built since the last time she was there. She would push her walker around the house on the porch and there they would sit and talk and look. We truly had a hard time getting her in the house

because she loved the outside so much. It was always a joy to have her at our home. I remember around Thanksgiving, Roger would roast some oysters. She would get comfortable in her chair and wait for him to shuck her some. She loved her some oysters! We were blessed a couple of times to have Mom, her sister Carolee and their brother, Jake to come over at the same time. It was so cute seeing them out by the fire enjoying each other's company. I'm so thankful for the memories.

We have shared so many memories throughout the years: Special birthdays, Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc. Christmas 2019, Mom had a food truck come out to her house. First, she read the Christmas story then everyone retreated to the back yard where the food truck was. There were tables set up under her carport to eat and everyone had a great time, mom included. One summer she ordered a huge waterslide and everyone brought food. The children (young and old) enjoyed the slide and once again, we all had a great time being together.

Now, life will be very different. We won't hear her sweet voice on the phone or get to see her beautiful face and pretty hair. However our memories will last in the lives of us all. She has left a strong legacy of love, faithfulness and God's grace. Our comfort is in knowing that she is in the arms of Jesus today and we will see her again.

We covet your prayers,

Dawn S. West