



Stella S. Southern

May 24, 1918 - February 28, 2018

Stella was born in Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona, on May 24, 1918. She was the seventh of eight children born to Mitchell M. Smith and Joanna Hendricks. She was married to Samuel Southern twice. They had no children. Stella's father died when she was 11 years of age. She enjoyed growing up in Thatcher, accompanying her father and brothers to work on the farm, spending time playing with her many friends, and taking baths outdoors in a number 3 washtub.

After a romance and marriage then divorce from Sam, Stella went to work for the Federal Government in Guam. While in the South Pacific right after World War II, she was able to travel to Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Upon her return, Sam and Stella remarried and settled in Dade County, Florida. Stella acquired skills as a stenographer and began an extensive career in the Dade County Justice System as a Court Reporter. Upon retirement, Stella and Sam moved to Apache Junction, Arizona, and Stella continued working at Williams Air Force Base as a secretary. When Sam passed, Stella continued to work at Williams Field and taught herself how to use a computer. Stella moved back to Thatcher in 1995 to be by her family and settled in a nice home behind her niece, Joanna. Stella became active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and received her endowment in the Mesa, Arizona Temple. She worked diligently in the early phases of the Family Search extraction project and became proficient in extraction techniques in the Spanish language. In July, 2010, when her sister Lucille (Morris) passed, she asked her niece, Joanna, to live in her home with her and care for her until she died. Stella passed quietly, in her home, on February 28, 2018, at the age of 99 years and 9 months, Joanna at her side.

Events

MAR 8 **Family Will Receive Friends** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

8

Vining Funeral Home

1940 South 20th Avenue, Safford, AZ, US, 85546

MAR 9 **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

9

Vining Funeral Home

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MAR 9 **Concluding Services** 11:30AM

9

Thatcher Cemetery

3944 West Eighth Street, Thatcher, AZ, US, 85552

Comments



“ We loved Aunt Stell and Lucille together. They made us laugh. My family loved to sit in the row in front of them at church because neither one of those sweet ladies knew how to whisper and they would say the funniest things. When we walked into church, my kids and me would look to see if the pew in front of them was available. Stella touched so many of us with her humor. Nobody quite like her! She was one of the great ones and will be missed!

Jenene maybury - March 03, 2018 at 09:16 PM



“ Stella was one of my dearest friends. She was always ready for an adventure. She and my husband Tommy shared the same birthday. He always sent her flowers and she gave him hugs. They were such good friends. Tommy and I enjoyed taking temple trips with her and her sister Lucille to the Mesa temple. I will miss her and we were always going to have a golf cart race to see who had the best. Have to do that later my dear friend. Give Tommy a hug from me. Kathy mullenau.

kathryn mullenau - February 28, 2018 at 07:39 PM