

Anita Estelle (Tallent) Noel passed peacefully into our Lord's arms on July 21st, 2021. She was born December 17, 1931 in Meyers, Arkansas and grew up on a 200 acre homestead in the midst of the Ouachita National Forest. Anita was the youngest of seven children of Alonzo and Avis Tallent, who made their home near Meyers Creek. She graduated from Lake Hamilton High School and attended the University of Arkansas, graduating in 1954 with a degree in Home Economics. While she was there, she lived in the 4H House, an experience that brought her many life-long friends. After graduating from college, she took a position as a home demonstration agent with the gas company, conducting home and group demonstrations of gas appliances to customers in the Northwest Arkansas area. Later that year, she was introduced through a friend to her future husband Bob Noel. After Bob graduated from college in 1959, they moved to several different cities for his work with the FAA, including Atlanta, Oklahoma City and San Antonio before returning to Arkansas again. Their first daughter, Allyson came along in 1960, followed by Melissa in 1962 and their son Matt in 1966. They eventually moved to Lamar in 1969, building their family home in Lamar Heights.

Anita loved her upbringing in Arkansas, often telling stories about her family and friends, about Meyers Creek and all the things that came along with growing up in a time when, like many other families, they didn't have much. That upbringing taught her all about gardening, canning, cooking, sewing and many other skills. While they didn't have much, the family always worked hard and did what they could to help others. She put it simply, "We had our family and friends, we worked hard together and played together and enjoyed our lives. I don't remember any bad times."

Anita was proud to be a homemaker and especially made Bob happy with her home cooked meals. While her children were in school, she frequently worked as a substitute teacher in elementary through high school. She volunteered with Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Sunday School. She was an accomplished seamstress and eventually opened a drapery shop in her home at which she worked for a number of years, making drapes and window treatments for many homes in the community and surrounding communities. She found great joy in service to others, whether it was serving in her church and clubs, delivering Meals On Wheels, or just serving anyone in need in addition to always being there for her family and friends. She had a true servant's heart.

Anita leaves a legacy defined by her faith in Christ, her deep love for her family, her kindness, and her care for others. She is preceded in death by her husband Robert, her parents, her brothers and sisters, Marshall, Paul, Audine, Clarys and Gladys. She is survived by her beloved sister, Juanita Tallent of Hot Springs, Arkansas; her children, Allyson Noel of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, Melissa Branson and her husband Rick of Overland Park, Kansas, and Matthew Noel and wife Joyce of Orange, California; five grandchildren, Adam Noel, Derek Noel, Bethanie Burandt, Rachel Branson and Faith Branson; five great-grandchildren and many beloved nieces, nephews and friends.