



## Shirley Ann Courtney

September 3, 1949 - April 24, 2020

Shirley Ann Courtney of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away suddenly on April 24, 2020 from heart failure. She was 70 years old.

Shirley was born in Sumpter, South Carolina on September 3, 1949 to Ingrid Franzkowiak and Dan Sweatt. Shortly after, Ingrid took Shirley to live with her grandparents in Germany where she picked up the German language, as well as a taste for order, functionality, and bread with seeds in it. Ingrid married Don Hewett and brought Shirley back to the states to further develop her charms in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. There she graduated from U.S. Grant High School. Don and Ingrid gave Shirley her lovely siblings, Jeff Hewett of Broken Arrow, OK and Deanna Woodard of Tulsa, OK.

Shirley moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where she married and had two children, Tanner Courtney, of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Casey Courtney, of Brooklyn, New York.

Yes, Shirley worked with Ford Motor Credit in financial services for most of her career, but she was better known for her advice and her opinions; tough, but fair. If you wanted to hear the truth of it, you asked Shirley. If you needed a reality check, you asked Shirley. Upon hearing of the accident, many of us first thought to call Shirley to seek her guidance. She was our North Star.

Many wonderful things happened to Shirley in her lifetime, but probably the best of them was her late husband Gordon D. Smith. Their life together was exotic, ranging from a trip to Machu Picchu in Peru to a drive to the other side of Tulsa for a new ingredient from the spice market. They fell in love again and again throughout their 20 plus years together, bound by a love of simple pleasures like good tomatoes, Bob Dylan, and laughs that make you cry.

Shirley is survived by her mother, Ingrid; her children, Tanner and Casey; her siblings, Jeff Hewett and his wife KayeLinn and Deanna Woodard and her husband, Daryl; her niece and three nephews; and of course, her many adoring fans. We are all scrambling to find a

new rock, but for now we are grateful to have known her and to be surrounded by love.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Gordon D. Smith Memorial Book Fund, In care of Trinity Me Church, 1101 N. Mississippi, Little Rock, AR 72207 or Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma ([okfoodbank.org](http://okfoodbank.org) <<http://okfoodbank.org/>>), or the Humane Society of Tulsa ([tulsapets.com](http://tulsapets.com) <<http://tulsapets.com/>>).

It's better to burn out, than to fade away.

Neil Young

# Comments

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“ I just learned of Shirley's passing today and am so sorry for the family's loss. I enjoyed many emails with her discussing genealogy and our extended family. All I can offer to her family and friends at this time is to cherish the memories you have of her. She was a wonderful person.

**Tim Taylor** - August 19, 2020 at 07:02 PM

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“ I send my most sincere condolences to Casey and her family. Charles-Henri de Fenoyl, France

**Charles-Henri de Fenoyl** - May 10, 2020 at 09:17 AM

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“ Shirley sounds like she was one of a kind type of gal! A wonderful sister, mother, daughter and friend who will be missed especially on this Mother's Day! Will be keeping you all in my prayers,

**linda howard** - May 09, 2020 at 06:57 PM

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“ As her step daughter I can attest to the great advice and showing me which way was north so to speak. But she always did it with loving kindness. I have great memories as a child and as an adult with her. I still have the stuffed mouse she brought back from Germany for me when I was 9. She Will be remembered and loved always.

**Quitts Courtney** - May 07, 2020 at 05:42 PM

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“ Casey and Tanner, I am so sorry to hear about your sweet momma! I have fond memories of my Tulsa years with all of you and the King's.

**Callie "Womack" Dolloff**

**Callie Dolloff** - May 07, 2020 at 05:42 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Shirley’s passing. I always enjoyed visiting with her

**irene bookbinder** - May 07, 2020 at 05:16 PM

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“ Shirley persisted my true friend from childhood on. I can not believe that the wonderful person is not longer existing. I am endlessly sad. I will never forget Shirley.

Albrecht Meyer, Germany

**Albrecht Meyer** - May 01, 2020 at 10:32 AM

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“ I have so many wonderful memories of Shirley and Gordon from our family reunions. She was full of fun and spirit. May her memory be a blessing.

Anne Easterling

**Anne Easterling** - April 30, 2020 at 10:39 PM

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“ Wish I could have said goodbye to my dear friend, Shirley. But I'm so glad we did text earlier in the week though and stayed in touch every few weeks. It's hard to find words to say that can possibly ease the pain and grief your entire family is suffering at this difficult time. When a loved one departs our lives so quickly, without warning, without proper time to say all we need or want to say and without getting to say goodbye it is the most difficult way to let go. But I take solace in knowing Shirley did not suffer a long debilitating illness or pain and is now reunited with Gordon, the love of her life. Knowing the way they both were, adventure seekers, I am quite certain they are already off on some exciting trip together making up for lots of lost time.

Gordon was my best friend for over 32 years until his untimely passing in 2015. He introduced me to Shirley and I was always so happy for him that he had finally found a perfect companion. Shirley was an amazing, fun, happy soul and she and Gordon were absolutely perfect soulmates. They loved to laugh, a great song and had a good time whatever they were doing. I always appreciated Shirley's love of animals, be it caring for a friend's dogs, donating to the animal shelter or her becoming a vegetarian many years ago. Like everyone else in her life I have another piece of my heart gone now. Thankfully we have a lot of wonderful memories and I know she is in good hands now, reunited with Gordon and also I know that she is reserving a stool for all of us at the Big Tiki Bar in Heaven. Wishing Mrs Ingrid all the best, and praying for a full recovery from her injuries. Sending all my love to Shirley's entire family, and especially to Ingrid, Deeanna, Jeff, Casey and Tanner.

**Craig Gann** - April 29, 2020 at 07:45 PM

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“ We met Shirley in Little Rock, AR with Gordon Smith and his family. She quickly won our hearts with smile, graciousness & genuine care for others. Precious memories, Roger & Theresa

**theresa allred** - April 29, 2020 at 06:52 PM

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“ I had never met Shirley when I pulled up in front of her duplex with my car loaded with all my belongings . Another friend I called to see if I could stay with her ,said call this other friendSHIRLEY . I did she said yes you can stay here. I was broken hearted from a breakup. Shirley was there for me.we firmed a bond that has and will continue. Love you!

**pj sanders** - April 28, 2020 at 03:52 PM