



## Juanita Mary Willitts

February 19, 1923 - January 8, 2016

Mary Juanita (Willitts) Browne was born February 19, 1923, in Japton, Arkansas to Otto and Martha Duncan. In 1938 Juanita moved to Tulare, California to live with her older sister, Iva Ezell, attending high school in Tulare and transferring to Visalia Union High School for her senior year.

During her senior year Juanita went to work as one of Visalia's first car hops at TAD's Drive-In (later known as Mearle's) and from there went to work at the Fox Theater as head usherette. She managed her work schedule and remained active in school activities and athletics. Her love of athletics continued throughout her life as she became an avid golfer and tennis player.

Juanita met Daniel C. Willitts during her first years in California. They fell in love and were married for over 40 years until his death in December 1983. Juanita enjoyed her role as wife, mother and homemaker.

In 1983 she married Douglas Browne of Cambria, California where he passed away in 2003.

Juanita remained actively involved in the community and church. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Visalia Country Club, Theta Tau Theta Sorority and a local singing group.

In addition to her two children, Daniel L. Willitts of North Powder, Oregon and Anita Willitts of Visalia she is survived by one brother, Gerald Duncan of Arkansas, one sister, Lois Henson of Texas, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Iva Ezell and Judy Duncan, and one brother, Ewell Duncan.

Family wishes to thank the dedicated caregivers, particularly Helen and Shirlee, Kaweah Delta In-Home Services, and Kaweah Delta Hospice for their loving care. Memorial contributions may be made in Juanita's memory to the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)).

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ *She was a beloved Aunt. She always was kind and loving. We went every year to look at the Christmas lights and she and her sister would sing Christmas Carols and tunes from the 40s in the back seat.*

*She was fun to be around and her sweet...sweet spirit will be missed. We were so very Blessed to have had her in our lives.*

*Bobby n Pam*

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**Pam Henson** - April 04, 2016 at 06:32 PM

JS

“ *Fond memories of Juanita ever since I could remember. Swimming in their coooold well fed pool, eating her wonderfully prepared meals when visiting and soaking in all the love she extended to me during my personal visits as well as phone conversations later in the years. I can remember the love, warmth and comfort she & Dan extended to my brother & I when we were kids after my dad died in 64.*

*My mom and Juanita were as close as sisters as they grew up together, raised their families together and gracefully aged together. Juanita was there 110% during the good and not so good times for my mom. A true, great and loving friend of our family that can never be replaced and will always be there in spirit for me. Juanita, thanks for all the love, laughs & good times we had together. Love Jimmy*

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**Jim Van Sickle** - March 25, 2016 at 12:13 AM