

Greetings to my friends and family,

As I look back this year, I realized I have spent half of my life in Oklahoma and half in California. I'm doing okay and enjoying my new ears (hearing aids). They feel good and help so much. I go to lots of doctor appointments but nothing important, just tune ups because I've exceeded my extended warranty. I am not too active, but thanks to my walker I can get around the house. I sit in different locations and watch the seasons change, read newspapers, magazines, books, and munch.

I have a game I play each day with the weather page in the newspaper. I look up every town or city where all my friends and family live. I have lots of fun checking out what kind of day you all are having. I even sweat out the storms or bad weather in each area. At night, when I am saying my prayers, I think about everyone again and put each of you to bed with a prayer. I start on the east coast and work my way across the country to California.

My 103rd birthday in October was fun. My granddaughter Erin and her husband Scott came up from Houston for the day. We all went out to a restaurant for lunch, and then had cake and presents at home. Another trip around the sun completed and a new one started again.

Our family has had its ups and downs in 2023 too. My granddaughter Romily stays busy caring for me and other family members. Her husband, Mark, just completed his first year in remission from both cancers. Very good news! We lost our wonderful dog Sun last December. We now have two rescue dogs. Erik is two and Marley is eight. They know I am a cat person, but they keep me company. They are both very good at begging for treats. On December first we lost my niece Robin, 83. She was my parent's first grandchild. I remember how exciting it was when she arrived. Robin and her sister Marilyn have always felt like they were my kids too. I will miss Robin's wit, intelligence, and style. Marilyn will be joining us for Christmas this year. We plan to spend some time telling Robin stories and celebrating her.

I'm looking forward to 2024. I'm hoping to still be here when my great grandson, Jake, graduates from college at University of California – Santa Cruz. I also hope to catch the Paris Olympics. I love watching both the men's and women's gymnastics. I'm enjoying the lacy winter trees and the clear blue sky. We have some white pelicans that winter here at a nearby lake. Spring will be right around the corner with all new leaves, flowers, and lots of new animals watch. I hope you are looking forward to special things in 2024.

Thank you for all the cards, letters and pictures you send me throughout the year. It makes me happy to feel more connected to all of you. It is more difficult for me to write now, but I do try to respond as often as I can.

I hope you have a great holiday. May your Christmas be blessed and New Year be happy. 2024 here we come!

Love, hugs and God's blessings,