



## Alma L. O'Kelley

May 20, 1927 - January 16, 2016

Alma Lee O'Kelley, 88 of Waterville has passed away on January, 16th. She born on May 20th, 1927 in Columbia Falls MT to Andrew and Mildred Foster and grew up in Bonners Ferry ID, Santa ID, and Saint Maries ID where she attended school. Later, she moved to the Wenatchee area where she met her husband, Frank O'Kelley and they made a home in Monitor WA. They raised their four boys in Monitor WA, the boys graduated from Cashmere and Wenatchee High school.

Alma built her career around the Washington Apple industry, and enjoyed working in fruit packing warehouses, after many dedicated years she finally finished her career with Stemilt. Alma made many lifelong friends along the way who she influenced and loved dearly and she was an inspiration to all who met her. She was known for being wise beyond her years and for her dedication to her family which included taking care of her mother later in life. She was a devoted mother to her boys and had a love for her family that will never be forgotten.

She enjoyed taking her grand- daughters on picnics, creating and playing paper dolls and teaching the art of how to be creative. She was resourceful and could create something beautiful or unique with the things that she already had and took great pride in showing her family how to follow her lead. She also loved ceramics and painting, She was simple and inspirational in everything that she did in life. She was also proud of her Irish heritage and she had the most beautiful blue eyes that you have ever seen- the eyes of a

beautiful angel that we will never forget.

She loved to cater large family events to honor birthdays, showers and weddings and was known to create masterpieces out of food. Later in her life, Alma taught catering classes. She believed in true friendship and had best friends that she explored life with instead of sitting on the sidelines.

Alma is survived by her four sons: Donnie (Crystal), Michael (Debbie), Terry and Shawn (Terina), and 5 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew and Mildred Foster, her husband Frank O'Kelley, sister Lucille Skinner and daughter in-law (Terry) Judy O'Kelley.

Flowers can be sent to Jones & Jones - Betts funeral home a day prior to the service. Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 P.M. Monday, January 25, 2016 at the Waterville Federated Church, 224 W. Ash St., Waterville, WA . A

Viewing will be held from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M at the Waterville Funeral Home prior to the service on Monday. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at [jonesjonesbetts.com](http://jonesjonesbetts.com). Arrangements are by Waterville Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Alma L. O'Kelley



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - January 21, 2016 at 02:39 PM

DE

*A beautiful tribute to a beautiful Lady! My condolences to all of her loved ones.  
R.I.P. Aunt Alma.*

dehorn52@yahoo.com - January 22, 2016 at 07:19 AM



“ 12 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - January 22, 2016 at 07:18 PM

MO

“ Tribute From: Kaley O’kelley To: Alma L O’kelley -Gramma O’Kelley..

*There are many things I want to say to you. I'm so terrible at goodbyes.*

*You say life is just a series of cycles. But I can't say GOODBYE to you.*

*I won't. What I will say is THANK YOU.*

*As children most of us come into the world loving our parents and our grandparents.*

*We grow into saying I love you ... And eventually REALLY meaning it for all kinds of reasons.*

*Today I want you to know why...*

*Memories of my childhood take me back to a house up a bumpy hill to a place that felt safe to play and rest and eat. On Your front porch or under a big tree with you and my sister.*

*I remember flowers sometimes planted in an old vintage bathtub under that tree. There was so much vibrant color in the spring. It was something you made beautiful and probably from things you already had. You were Shabby Chic-- before Shabby Chic was cool. I feel lucky to have a grandma who is so creative.*

*I remember your amazing breakfasts and your homemade syrup.. and ice in my milk glass and your pancakes. At family BBQs, holidays and weddings I remember your beautiful and delicious fruit salads served in carved watermelon that looked like swans or whatever we requested. And your pumpkin pie!!!*

*I remember you and Shawn reading bedtime stories to my sister and me when we would stay with you..*

*Peaceful nights with crickets chirping outside on that hill. The house was dark and cozy and that old stove that kept us warm would crackle... I always loved my time with you.*

*I remember long drives on Sunday afternoons. From your house up to Cashmere and everywhere in between. You'd share stories with Shelbee and me.*

*They may have seemed like a days to pass with two little girls who's parents, at the time, probably needed a break or some quality time alone.*

*For me these moments are part of a foundation that taught me the value of being "grounded" and not NEEDING "material" things.*

*You showed me, that*

*with some imagination I could create something unique or fun or delicious with things we already had .. Like cookies made from Jiffy Mix.. Or flowers/weeds in a jar picked from the yard.*

*I loved your ceramics and still have many things that you made especially for me all those years ago. They are signed "Alma". A few days ago, I showed my kiddos an Easter Bunny that you made when I was a little girl. They LOVE it.*

*I even remember going to the grocery store with you to check on things in the classroom upstairs that needed to be glazed or put into the "Kiln". I thought... Even way back then -- when I was in elementary school.. How cool it was that you took those classes. I also remember my first overnight shift at my first job.. sorting cherries for you--BOSS-- in that COLD Warehouse at Chief WENATCHEE.*

*Everyone on floor the talked about "Alma OKelley". You were a ROCKSTAR. They cared so much about you. You worked your butt off. Right there in the game with them. Never acting like you were better because of your role. You lead by example. I was and still am SOOOO proud of you.*

*I want to say thank you! Your example-- all those years ago were part of the foundation for what would become my work ethic.. something I feel good about.*

*You taught me that NO EXCUSE is a GOOD EXCUSE. Make good decisions, SHOW UP-ON TIME-READY TO WORK. PERIOD. And to remain humble .. that we are all replaceable. Even those of us who are "related to" or have an "in" with the boss.*

*Because you expected more of me than the others -- I learned the value of doing more than what is asked of you. And-- not for praise or achievement BUT because "you can".*

*You reminded me that my "pat on the back" would come on payday. I wasn't motivated by \$. Although it was nice.. What I really wanted was to make you proud of me.*

*I didn't want your colleagues to second guess your decision to give me a shot.*

*Thank you for believing in me.  
I remember your friends LIZ and Leetha and I loved that you ladies  
found time for each other. You*



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**Mendy O'kelley** - January 22, 2016 at 06:31 AM



“ 40 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home** - January 21, 2016 at 02:30 PM

MO

“ I remember Aunt Alma pulling a few Turkey Tails on a couple of the boys to get them to straighten up, all I could do was watch and laugh, then she asked me "if I wanted to see what it felt like? I said " :heck no" to her and she said " that's just what I had thought" and turn around with a smile on her face. she has touched many of our lives, she made a Great Inspiration on all of us, she made sure we all knew right from wrong she had told me at the age of 9 Alma had told me while we was driving in her yellow car she said Mindy I want you to know that "Life is like a Mountain, You will have to go up that Mountain Top, But sooner or Later You will have to come back down, just to go Right Back Up it Again" those words have been implanted in me for many years to this day, She lived a long Beautiful Life, leaving behind Cherished Memories that we will all hold onto inside, she has taught us all many life lessons to continue on our own Life's Journey, Until we all meet again on the other side. Prayer's sent up for the family- Love and Hugs

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**Mendy O'kelley** - January 19, 2016 at 05:49 AM

MO

“ *Alma’s Farwell to Loved One’s: Release me and set me free, I have many things too see and do, You must not tie yourself to me with tears, be thankful for our beautiful years, I gave you my love, You can only see, How much you have gave back to me, I thank you all for the love you all have shown me, Now it’s time I must go home, and I shall travel alone. So grieve for me if you must, your grief will be comforted from above, it’s only for a short time that we shall part, so bless the memories within all your hearts. Your life’s will continues on, and I will not be far away, I can still hear you, so if you need me, call and I will come, though you cannot see or touch me, you may feel me, I will be near, listen with your hearts, you will hear and feel all my love around you soft and clear, for I’m now the angel watching over each one of you, then when you come this way alone, I’ll greet you with My bright blue eyes and a smile saying “Welcome Home ”*



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**Mendy O'kelley** - January 19, 2016 at 05:35 AM