



## Bette Ann Backstrom

September 15, 1923 - February 10, 2011

East Wenatchee, WA

Bette Ann Rice was born September 15, in Pomona, CA, to James William Rice and Mabel Graham Rice. Bette spent her early life in Southern California, including Glendale and Pasadena. At Age ten, her father's oil business took the family to Houston, TX. It was there that Bette attended St. Agnes Girls' Academy and accepted her Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Bette attended college at Pasadena Community College and was a member of Veda Sorority. Following graduation in 1943, she married her young love, James Russell Wilder, and shortly after, Bette and Jim moved to Coulee Dam, where Jim worked for the government on the Coulee Dam Project. In 1954, work moved the family to Quincy and again in 1960, to Wenatchee. At Coulee Dam, Quincy and Wenatchee, Bette taught Sunday school and was a leader in the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies and 4-H clubs. In Wenatchee, Bette worked for the Eye & Ear Clinic and retired from the Deaconess Hospital as an Administrative Secretary after 20 years. At Christmas time in 1970, Bette met and married her husband, Russell Bert Backstrom, after the death of her first

husband, James R. Wilder, in 1969. Bette was a member of the Wenatchee First United Methodist Church, where she sang in the choir and was an usher. Bette belonged to many organizations, including Phi Sigma Alpha, Washington Phi, Wenatchee Valley Lions, Lady Lions, and Lady of the Elks, Wenatchee Valley Antique Car Club and the Wenatchee Valley Doll Club. She

was an exceptional Doll Artist and made many beautiful creations. Bette loved her family, her friends, her home and cars. Roses were her favorite flowers and she made garlands of them and preserved them to be given as gifts. Bette's favorite quotes were "Bless you," and "I love you." Bette would like to be remembered for her love of the Lord and her family and her host of friends. Finally, Bette would like to say, "Thank you all for blessing my life with your love and may God protect and keep you close until we meet again." Bette is survived by her children: daughter, Jennifer Jann Calkin of Gig Harbor, WA, son, Chris Wilder of Wenatchee, step-daughters, Carol Backstrom of Wenatchee and Karen Profit of Lynden and step-sons, Ken Backstrom of Fairfield, ID and Scott Backstrom of East Wenatchee; including five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; and ten step-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands, James "Jim" Wilder and Russell Bert Backstrom; brother, James "Bill" Rice, a casualty of WWII; her sister, Jane Rice Bishop; and her parents. Memorial Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Wenatchee on Saturday, February 19, 2011, with Pastor Julia Price officiating. Private Family Interment will be held at the Cashmere City Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association or Central Washington Hospice. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at [jonesjonesbetts.com](http://jonesjonesbetts.com). Arrangements by Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home, Wenatchee.

# Cemetery Details

## Cashmere Cemetery

Evergreen and Pioneer  
Cashmere, WA 98815

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB **19**. 2:00 PM (PT)

First United Methodist  
941 Washington  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 663-1607  
<http://www.firstumchurch.org>

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ I took care of Betty for Many Years. She always had a smile on her face and always was a joy to take care of. Betty always had lots of Love to give! I will miss her a lot!

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**Amber Lasater** - February 25, 2011 at 02:10 AM

MJ

“ Bette had many creative talents. She was an excellent cook and made many fancy decorative things on holidays and shared them with her friends. Bette said that on a trip to Canada with Bert she'd seen a beautiful hat in a store there but it was too expensive. They left the store and were driving away when Bert turned the car around, went back to the store and told Bette to get the hat. She is shown pictured in the lovely bright pink hat, which suited her to a "T".

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**Marilyn Jones** - February 17, 2011 at 07:35 PM

 Linda  
Ingraham

“ I got to know Bette a few years ago when she called me about how to get her husband Bert's flag to be displayed on Memorial Day at the Cashmere Cemetery. I helped her do that so she could honor his flag & be involved in the beautiful Memorial Day ceremony. I saw her a few times after that standing by his flag & grave & visited with her. She even came up to a couple American Legion Auxiliary meetings. I had not seen her for a bit but thought of her often. Maybe I will see you at the Memorial Day ceremony. Your family is in my prayers. Linda Ingraham, Cashmere American Legion Auxiliary President

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**Linda Ingraham** - February 13, 2011 at 09:14 PM