



Gloria M. Bourton

October 28, 1927 - July 1, 2019

Gloria May Bourton

Orondo Washington

Gloria peacefully passed away Monday, July 1 at age 91. Born October 28, 1927 to Goldy (Johnson) and William Tober in Bremerton, Washington, she was a proud descendent of early pioneers of the Big Bend Country. Her Swedish grandparents John and Augusta Johnson homesteaded on land south of Farmer, Washington in 1889.

Gloria's early years were spent as a "Navy Brat" traveling between naval bases at Bremerton, Washington and Long Beach, California while the family followed her father's deployments to the Pacific. Her father, William, went missing at war following the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. At that time her mother moved Gloria and her sister Dorothy from Long Beach back to Washington to be closer to family. While living in East Wenatchee she attended Wenatchee High School. She was a member of the "Bridge Walker" kids living in East Wenatchee and walking across the Columbia River Bridge to attend the only high school in the area which was the Wenatchee High School. She graduated in 1945 and went to work as a nurse for Dr. Arthur Ludwick.

Gloria married Joe Bourton on June 21, 1947 and proceeded to build a beautiful life together. Their union produced four children, Michele, Michael, Bill and Jeanette. They lived in and were a part of the Orondo community, first living in the Browns Canyon/Brays Landing area, initially with no PUD

electricity or telephone. In 1965 they moved to property along the Columbia River where they built a home and planted an orchard. Together they worked as dry land wheat and cherry farmers. In the winter seasons, they both worked for many years at Stevens Pass ski area. Their work ethic and diligence made them successful in these efforts. They had a wonderful life together until Joe passed away in 2011.

Gloria's interests in life were reflected in the great variety of flowers, vegetables and trees that made up her gorgeous garden. Possessing a very green thumb she could grow anything from acorns to kiwis and asters to beautiful roses. Her zest for life was felt by everyone and everything she touched.

Gloria's love of quilting produced beautiful quilts, wall hangings, tablecloths and more. Because of her talent and generosity her family will enjoy these pieces for years to come.

In addition to raising her family and farming Gloria worked and volunteered in a variety of activities over the years: teaching assistant at the Orondo Elementary School, Washington State Fruit Inspector, Red Cross Blood Drive, Orondo Garden Club, Waterville Historical Society, US Ski Association Referee, and the occasional ham radio operator.

Gloria was preceded in death by her sister Dorothy, parents Goldy and William Tober and husband Joe. Survivors include daughters Michele and Jeanette (Hal Rees), and sons Michael (Annie Ward) and Bill (Lynn) all of Wenatchee. The family is very grateful for the wonderful care Gloria received over the last several years, especially from the staff members of Confluence Health, Regency Rehabilitation Center, Blossom Valley Assisted Living and Prime Point Care Consulting.

A graveside service at Waterville Cemetery will be held on Wednesday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m. A reception for family and friends will be held immediately following the service at the United Lutheran Church located at 203 South Chelan Street in Waterville.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Gloria's memory to the

Orondo Fire District, P.O. Box 258, Orondo, WA 98843.

Cemetery Details

Waterville Cemetery

218 East Elm
Waterville, WA 98858

Previous Events

Graveside

JUL 10. 10:00 AM (PT)

Waterville Cemetery
218 East Elm
Waterville, WA 98858

Tribute Wall

AG

“ I remember Gloria from the 1970s when she became active in the newly-organized Wenatchee Valley Mycological Society. Yes, a bunch of mushroom hunters but not just for the table. She wanted to identify the deadly poisonous fungi, the benign and the tasty ones. She was among our teachers and a delightful companion in the woods. Also a fine mother, evidenced by her son Bill who worked for me on the Entiat Ranger District. Bill was a seasonal wildlands firefighter until an injury sidelined him to work with me in fire prevention for awhile. I don't remember if the injury was as a firefighter on what at the time was called the "Bushmen," a PNW hot shot crew stationed at Entiat, or as a great downhill skier. My condolences to the Bourton family. Allen Gibbs; Mill Creek, WA

allen gibbs - July 09, 2019 at 01:02 PM

SB

“ So many happy memories of playing with Jeanette and Bill during the early days on Brays Landing. Standing at our bus stop and yelling at the Bourton kids at their bus stop. Who knows what we were trying to say. Then the many happy happy years at the house on the river. Gloria and Joe were almost magical to me. I loved Gloria's laugh. It alone could make you smile. Gloria's lunches made the humid cherry picking worthwhile. And then there were the years of square dancing mom and dad, and Gloria and Joe, went to. So much to think about, so many memories, to treasure. Love, Susie Q.

susan boeggeman - July 08, 2019 at 08:37 PM



“ 43 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - July 08, 2019 at 03:55 PM