

## Augustine Jacob "Gus" Bennin

December 22, 1922 - July 24, 2014

Augustine

Jacob (Gus)

Bennin, 91, of

Soap Lake, Washington, passed away Thursday, July 24, 2014 at

Columbia Basin

Hospital in Ephrata, Washington.

Gus was born December 22, 1922, in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, to August and Clara Bennin. He graduated from New Holstein high school in 1941 and went to work in the shipyards first in Manitowac, Wis., and then in Bremerton, Wash., building ships for American forces in World War II.

During this time he met and married Wilma Olson of Seattle, Wash. In 1947 they moved to the Soap Lake area where Gus worked building irrigation canals for the Columbia Basin Project and did cement work at many of the dams and other construction projects. From 1970-1980 he operated Gus' Chevron in Soap Lake.

Gus' wife, Wilma (Billie) passed away July 22, 1972. Gus married Patricia Datin, Oct. 18, 1975. Pat died in 2007 and on July 21, 2012, he married Priscilla Johnson Asker.

Gus was a lifelong member of the Catholic Church and was a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He was instrumental in helping to build St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, which his three daughters attended.

He enjoyed bowling, fishing, ice skating, playing cards and playing Santa Claus for his family and friends. He was an active member of the Soap Lake Lions Club for 44 years and a lifetime member of the Soap Lake Senior Center, where he served on the Board of Directors and organized pinochle and bridge.

Gus traveled extensively with his wife, Pat, and on his 90th birthday he was still working out at the Ephrata Athletic Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six brothers; and three sisters; his wife, Wilma; and second wife, Patricia.

Gus is survived by his wife, Priscilla, at the family home in Soap Lake; sons, Michael (Cindy) of Catalina, Arizona, Steven (Sharon) of Los Banos, Calif.; daughters, Kristi Seefried of Yakima, Wash., Joan (Jim) Lyerly, of Clarkston, Wash., and Mary Dewey of Soap

Lake, Wash.; 17 grandchildren, including Sarah (Jeff) Nelson, of Ephrata, Wash., Jesse Berry of Soap Lake, Wash.; and 14 greatgrandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be held Friday, August 1, 2014, at 2 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Ephrata. Interment will follow at Valley View Memorial Park in Soap Lake.

Rosary will be held at 7pm on Thursday, July 31, 2014 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.nicolesfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicolesfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are under the care of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata, Wash.

# Cemetery Details

## Valley View Memorial Park

20174 Rd A N.E.  
Soap Lake, WA 98851  
(509) 754-4150  
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JUL 31. 7:00 PM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima  
323 D St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

## Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 1. 2:00 PM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima  
323 D St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

# Tribute Wall



“ *Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park created a Tribute Video in memory of Augustine Jacob "Gus" Bennin*

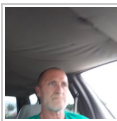


**Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park** - July 29, 2014 at 05:16 PM

MB

“ *To Uncle Gus' Family: We are deeply sorry for the loss of your Dear Father, Uncle Gus. He was a great man. We always loved his visits to Wisconsin. We were sure to have him stop by our home because this was his home farm when he grew up. We are son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Doris, of Ray and Gen. We would have great conversations and laughs with him on visits. It would mean a visit to his growing up church in Charlesburg and of course a fish fry of Mike's catch of the season. Uncle Gus was always good about sending a note throughout the year, a note of a few words but so great to hear from him. May God Bless your family and may his soul rest in peace. Mike and Doris Bennin*

**Mike and Doris Bennin** - August 10, 2014 at 10:26 AM



*I have lost touch with this part of my family and just found this out. Gus was my Grandpa, my sister and I lived in Soap Lake with him for a while. He was an amazing man, I'll never forget helping at the gas station in the summer*

**Mike Bennin** - January 09, 2017 at 12:32 AM

ER

“ *What I meant to say was I could not afford to pay for the much needed repairs on my old beater & Gus with his big kind generous heart fixed my car & refused to take any money from me. I've always remembered what a good kind man he was. My beloved father thought & spoke very highly of Gus. I feel very blessed to know the Bennin Family. Rest in peace dear Gus!!!*

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**Elanne Joy Bender Reece** - August 02, 2014 at 05:55 PM

ER

“ *Gus & my Dad were good friends. I remember when I was only 18 & my old beater I was driving was in need of work & although I could afford to pay for Gus fixed it for me anyway & would not accept any money from me. I've always remembered that generous act of kindness. Gus was always a fair & kind man & certainly respected him & felt a great fondness for him. Rest in peace dear Gus*

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**Elanne Joy Bender Reece** - August 02, 2014 at 05:47 PM

CW

“ *In the years since moving away from Ephrata, it was always wonderful to run into your Dad at church when I was home visiting. He was always so cheerful and would make sure to catch me up on how the family was doing, and especially you, Mary. He seemed to me 'forever young'! I always thought of your Dad as an example of someone who lived life to the fullest! What a great Dad! To all the Bennins, I'm thinking of you all and holding you close to my heart during this time. Blessings, Carol Waltho*

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**Carol Waltho** - August 01, 2014 at 02:46 AM

DB

“ I was privileged, honored and blessed to be able to say goodbye to my Uncle Gus before he passed away. We prayed and I gave him a blessing and Communion, and had a wonderful visit along with Joan & Jim, Mary, Priscilla and my brother Dave. It had been many years since I was back in Soap Lake and spending time with my cousins and Uncle Gus will stay with me forever. Lasting memories with my family filled with love and joy.

*I have so many recollections of Soap Lake, the Bennin Ranch, and spending time with our cousins who I feel are more siblings than cousins all because of our parents and the love that Gus gave and modeled for all to see. Thanks to our parents Clarence & Elsie and Gus & Billie we made connections that are lasting far longer than I ever imagined because of the many road trips between Washington and Wisconsin. I could go on and on, but suffice it to say that because of my Uncle Gus our life is much richer and I pray that he has joined the Communion of Saints.*

*To the family: Steve, Kristi, Joan & Jim, Mary and Priscilla I am sorry for your deep loss, and you have my condolences. Let us keep each other in prayer and let us celebrate the life of Gus that he so much would want us to do. May he rest in peace!*

*May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.  
Amen.*

*Uncle Gus' nephew  
Deacon Dennis Bennin  
Chilton, Wisconsin*

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**Deacon Dennis Bennin** - July 31, 2014 at 06:44 PM

JJ

“ I only knew Gus towards the end of his life - I am his wife, Priscilla's, daughter. He was a very kind, friendly and affable man. And, I know he was so kind to my mom, which I appreciate. But I think the greatest testament to his well-lived life is his children. They are wonderful people with vibrant, active and loving relationships with each other, and I have so enjoyed what little time I have been able to spend with them. I have enjoyed the one on one time I have had with them, and with them when they are together. To leave such a legacy is impressive.

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**Jennifer Johnson** - July 29, 2014 at 08:47 PM

MJ

“ My recollection of my Uncle Gus was told to me by my father Walter Depies. My Father was so pleased that when Gus was in Wisconsin he always made a point of visiting my Dad. Even though my mother, Gus's sister had died, he always thought to stop and visit with Dad. That showed my whole family what a wonderful man he was. Several of my siblings had made a visit to Washington to visit with him. It was told that he showed them a good time.

*My condolences to the whole family. I hope to be able to meet some of my cousins some day. The August Bennin siblings have had a big role in shaping my life.*

*With Sorrow,  
Mary Depies Jordan  
Madison, Ct.*

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**Mary Depies Jordan** - July 29, 2014 at 03:06 PM

MP

“ *Marian Menzia Pedersen lit a candle in memory of Augustine Jacob "Gus" Bennin*



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**Marian Menzia Pedersen** - July 29, 2014 at 02:06 PM

EJ

“ *Gus was an inspiration to his family and friends. I am honored that I was able to meet Joan, Jim and Mary in Flagstaff two years ago. They reflect his love of his family and God.*

*Eileen Depies Jones  
Phoenix, Arizona*

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**Eileen Jones** - July 28, 2014 at 10:29 PM