



Billie J Furman

October 16, 1928 - August 15, 2012

Billie Jo Mooney was born 83 years ago in Taholka, Texas. As a small child, Billie picked cotton in Texas.

Her family, which consisted of her parents, Opal and Lane; her sisters; Romelda “Mel”, Olita, Calvin, and Aubrey traveled west on Route 66 during the infamous dust bowl. They settled in Hood River, Oregon.

Billie graduated from Hood River High School in 1947. During her senior year, she met the love of her life, Oliver Furman. At the time of Billie’s High School Graduation, he was a cherry picker working in the Tri-City area. He drove many hours from the orchards to reach her high school graduation in time. They dated for another year before being married on May 30, 1948.

Shortly after their marriage, Billie and her young husband moved to the Dalles, Oregon. Here Oliver started a long and successful career with Western Auto.

Billie worked in a high end gift boutique selling blankets, shawls, and other goods to Native Americans who lived across the river.

Right before their first child, Roger Allen, was born, Billie returned to the family farm to await the birth. It was a very snowy winter, and the family kept a snow shovel by the door to make sure the path was cleared when a quick trip to the hospital was needed. The path was shoveled and Roger, the first son, entered the world safely.

Daughter Colleen and son David quickly followed, both being born in the Dalles, Oregon.

In 1955, the young family was transferred to Western Auto to Hood River. In November of that year, their youngest child, Kimberly was born.

Billie became a member of ESA Beta Pi Sorority, in 1950, a membership she cherished for nigh unto 40 years. She held offices including the Sorority President.

The year 1956, saw Billie and her family moving to Wenatchee, Washington. Here they made their home for two years while Oliver traveled throughout the region for Western Auto.

In 1958, Oliver came to the Western Auto Store in Ephrata, Washington. This would be home forever. They had only a short time to choose a house, but Billie quickly made the house on "C" street a loving home not only for her family but for her children's friends as well. This house became the happening place for a generation of children as they grew from grade-schoolers to high school and beyond. Billie and Oliver were "The Parents" to many young people.

Billie not only helped out in the Western Auto, but for 20 plus years she was a Blood Drive Coordinator for the American Red Cross. She worked with Volunteer Recruitment and with National Disaster Relief. She traveled widely throughout the country winning many awards from the Red Cross for her accomplishments.

During the 1960's Billie was a chaperon for the yearly Miss Ephrata, and the two Princesses. Working not only at the yearly pageant, she would travel with the young ladies whenever they made appearances in other town's festivals. Billie played an active role in her local Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Community and Church Choir.

Billie had friends wherever she went. She valued people above all else. She was known for her warmth, humor, engaging smile, and the twinkle in her eye. If you saw her talking with someone, it could be difficult to tell if that person was a longtime friend or someone she had just met.

Our lives are better for being a part of her life. We will miss her, but we can all celebrate the joy, life, and love she brought to this world. We, who were

privileged to know Billie, will always be grateful for the time we had with her. Billie is survived by her husband Oliver of 64 years, at the home; four children, Roger of Ephrata; Collen of West Seattle; David (Kerri) of Ephrata; and Kimberly (Jon) of Ocean Shores; one sister, Romelda "Mel" of Greenlake, WI; many nieces and nephews too numerous to mention but all deeply loved and one grandson, Aaron Furman of Ephrata. Her deep love extended to three women to whom Billie extended her love to since their childhood, Judith Castle (Tris) of Tempe, AZ; Dawn Boyd (Jerry) of Ephrata, and Debbie Caudell of Keller, WA.

At the family's request, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ephrata Food Bank.

Services will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ephrata at 1:30PM with graveside service to follow at the Ephrata City Cemetery. There will be a reception following the services at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please express your thoughts and memories for the family and view the online tribute video at nicolesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata.

Cemetery Details

Ephrata City Cemetery

333 E St. S.W.
Ephrata, WA

Previous Events

Service

AUG 21. 1:30 PM (PT)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1012 C St S.W.
Ephrata, WA 98823

Reception

AUG 21 (PT)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1012 C St S.W.
Ephrata, WA 98823

Tribute Wall



“ *Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park created a Tribute Video in memory of Billie J Furman*



Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park - August 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Billie J Furman.*



August 19, 2012 at 05:02 PM



“ *Lane & Gwen Strode purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Billie J Furman.*



Lane & Gwen Strode - August 19, 2012 at 04:58 PM

DC

“ I don't even have the words to say how important Billie was/is to my life. She helped me to define what kind of a person I wanted to be by her example. She was gracious, funny, kind. She defined unconditional love. My heart goes out to Oliver, Kim, Dave, Colleen and Roger. I am so sorry for your loss.

Debbie Caudell - August 18, 2012 at 07:43 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park - August 17, 2012 at 10:36 AM

LB

“ Well I was one of those girls! Whenever you needed a Mom to talk to, but could not talk to your own, Billie was there for us. She opened her heart and her home to all the kids who needed some place to hang out away from trouble. She spent many an hour being the "adult "when us girls needed to go to the Lakes to work on our tans and meet other kids (boys) our age! She made sure the cupboards were full of tomato soup, crackers and cheese for our toasted cheese sandwiches! Which we made practically everyday after school. And oh, the birthday parties she would throw for all us girls. I will always remember that smile, that charm, and that grace! She was a wonderful roll model for a girl growing up. We will all miss her but know she will be waiting for us in heaven with open arms ready to show us around and help us find our way. Hugs go out to Oliver, Roger, Camille, David and expecially Kim, my friend forever.
Linda

Linda (Renken) Boyd - August 17, 2012 at 09:58 AM

BF

“ Billie and Howard Farris purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Billie J Furman.



Billie and Howard Farris - August 17, 2012 at 09:32 AM

DK

“ A very kind and generous lady who made me welcome during my awkward teenage years. Our trips to Sun Lakes will always have a place in my heart. My lifelong Today Show habit started with Billie so many mornings ago. My love and thoughts are with Kim and her family. Donna Killian, dkillian@nwinfo.net

Donna Killian - August 17, 2012 at 08:55 AM

RF

“ *Reta and Delman Farris purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Billie J Furman.*



Reta and Delman Farris - August 16, 2012 at 05:35 PM