



Jacqueline Ann MacNeil

June 9, 1938 - January 19, 2025

Mrs. Jacqueline Ann MacNeil, 86, of Ephrata, Washington, passed away of natural causes on January 19, 2025, in Soap Lake, Washington.

Jacqueline Garland was born in 1938 to William and Rita Garland of Dover, New Hampshire. She married Gerard (Jerry) MacNeil in 1957 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the couple initially settled in Massachusetts before relocating to California in 1975.

After raising six children, Jackie began her professional career with the City of Santa Maria Recreation Department as a coordinator for adaptive recreation programs and Special Olympics activities. She later managed the Santa Maria Senior Center and retired as the part-time director of the city's Recycling Program at the landfill.

A lover of art and a passionate reader, Jackie, along with Jerry, collaborated with the Altrusa service organization to promote cultural activities and literacy awareness in public school districts. As an advocate for her special needs daughter, Jackie was instrumental in identifying areas for improvement in school curricula and programs, benefiting all special needs students in the district. During this time, Jackie and Jerry joined forces with other parents to establish the Santa Maria Independent Living Environment (S.M.I.L.E), an organization created to meet the residential needs of adult disabled

individuals in the community. Jackie also served on S.M.I.L.E.'s Board of Directors.

Jackie's civic involvement extended to fundraising efforts for non-profit organizations such as Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library and Altrusa. After Jerry's retirement, Jackie fulfilled a lifelong dream of traveling to Europe, where she visited historical and literary sites she had long read about. These trips, often shared with Jerry or friends, were among the pinnacle experiences of her life.

After Jerry's passing in 2017, Jackie relocated to Ephrata, Washington, where she lived with her daughter Missy. She spent her later years immersed in her favorite activities: reading as many books as possible, solving New York Times crossword puzzles, and cherishing time with her young grandchildren who inspired her move.

Jacqueline is preceded in death by Gerard MacNeil, her husband of sixty years ("...not a perfect man, but perfect for me"), her parents, and her brother William Garland. She is survived by her six children: William MacNeil of Torrance, California; Michael MacNeil of Watertown, Massachusetts; Steven MacNeil of Ephrata, Washington; Alan MacNeil of Riposto, Sicily, Italy; Elizabeth MacNeil of Ephrata, Washington; and Catherine MacNeil of Phoenix, Arizona. She is also survived by her siblings: Leann Lyle of Solomons, Delaware; Caro Rubino of Haltom City, Texas; and Richard Garland of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Jackie leaves behind twenty-two grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to altruistic and philanthropic charities of your choice. Arrangements are underway for her cremated remains to be placed alongside her husband's at the Cal-Vet California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Monterey, California. A memorial service

will be held at Nicoles Funeral Home in Ephrata on Friday, January 31, at 10:00 a.m. Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at www.nicolesfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 10:00 AM (PT)

Nicoles Funeral Home
157 C St. N.W.
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-3420
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Here are some memories from Myrna Deane's children who knew "Jackie" (Mrs. MacNeil) when she was living in Melrose, Mass. with her husband and children.

Carolyn: We Deane kids loved her! She was always jolly and had the BEST hugs when she greeted us. I always relished those squishy, warm hugs. She moved while I was still young but I always felt like she was a part of our family.

Evan: Mrs. MacNeil was so sweet. She was very kind and always offered me something to munch on. I remember she always had a smile on her face and had a good sense of humor too.

Johanna: I marveled at her ability to smile and laugh in the midst of chaos. Lots of children, teens and adults all talking and playing in her house but she would always give you her full attention. When I was 14 I visited her home in California with my mom. I ate fresh grapefruits every day and they were the best I ever had. Jackie thought it was so funny that I didn't realize grapefruits and lemons grew on trees! She was so easy to talk with and the world was a better place with her in it.

I'm the oldest so I have the most memories of her. On my wedding day she met me and my parents at the back of the church just before we went down the aisle. I remember hugging her and how she made me feel a bit calmer before Dad and I set out for the altar. I just remember feeling so grateful for her loving presence.

Johanna True - March 04, 2025 at 08:15 PM

LS

“ Jackie was a wonderful person who inspired so many others of all ages! I so enjoyed listening to her share her experiences and, even more so, her ideas. There was NEVER a shortage of creative ideas in her mind - many of which came to fruition and impacted our community of Santa Maria forever. She was a treasure to so many of us, and we will never forget her! My deepest sympathy to family and friends around the world!

Laura Selken - February 04, 2025 at 12:00 PM

MH

“ A wonderful and wise woman who truly made a difference in her community. I'm so glad to have known her and had her help starting the Santa Maria Public Library Foundation.

Mary Housel - February 02, 2025 at 11:23 PM

AS

“ Amie (Lyle) Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline Ann MacNeil



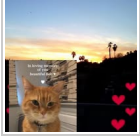
Amie (Lyle) Schmidt - January 29, 2025 at 02:42 PM

MI

“ Michela lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline Ann MacNeil



Michela - January 29, 2025 at 01:24 PM



“ *Patrizia Testaverde lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline MacNeil*



Patrizia Testaverde - January 29, 2025 at 12:49 PM

MM

Dear Jackie , the key of your existence was the love : love for your life, love for your husband , love for your children and your grandchildren, love for your friends, for the nature and animals . As well as Dante Alighieri wrote “ Love is the Energy that moves the Sun and the Stars “ your way to feel to give and to receive love was the energy for living into the deepest meaning and the different aspects of the life. I am grateful to you for being like a mother to me. Thank you for the fun time and the nice and sweet memories we built together. Your hugs , your “joie de vivre “ , your unforgettable smile, never changed since we met in Spain for the first time and they will stay in my heart forever. Love You . Michela MacNeil

Michela MacNeil - January 29, 2025 at 01:29 PM

LA

How beautiful..and so very true for us all. Wife, mother, sister, councillor, wise woman and friend to all she met..her kindness was the foundation for such a large, diverse family as hers. Godspeed you Jackie, to His loving arms..and to Jerry's

s.

Leanne, Steve, Jen & Amie - January 30, 2025 at 07:24 PM

LA

Steve

Leanne, Steve, Jen & Amie - January 30, 2025 at 07:25 PM

CR

*Beautiful! Wonderful sister, wife and mother. She opened heart to everyone. Such a special woman. Will miss our phone calls. Glad you're finally with Jerry again. We love you and miss you .
Bunny & Joe*

Caro Rubino - January 31, 2025 at 03:00 AM