



Juanita Lucille Graham

January 1, 1924 - July 1, 2019

Juanita Graham, of Soap Lake, Washington, passed away on July 1, 2019, surrounded by her loving family. Nita died of congestive heart failure at age 95 at the Cottage in the Meadow Hospice facility in Yakima, WA. Nita was born in Palisade, Colorado, January 1, 1924, to Irl and Ollie Akers. She had two older brothers and a younger sister and lived a happy and loving childhood in Western Colorado. She attended a small country grade school in Molina and high school in Collbran, CO. At an early age she wanted to be a teacher and was educated at Mesa Junior College in Grand Junction and the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. Nita taught in Colorado, Idaho and Washington, retiring from the Soap Lake school district in 1989, after many years as a beloved second grade teacher. Music was very important in Nita's life and she took her first piano lessons on the family's old pump organ. Nita was an excellent pianist and played for many school events, church services, weddings, funerals and memorials. She was the organist and pianist for her local church for over 60 years. Nita met her husband, Lewis Graham, in Greeley while attending the university. They were married December 26, 1950, in Greeley, and were married 54 years before Lew's death in 2004. Besides traveling in the USA, Nita and Lew traveled extensively after their retirement enjoying trips to Europe, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and Morocco, Africa; Nita bought a musical instrument in every country she visited. Nita was a very loving, generous and independent woman who had a very strong Christian faith. She was a beloved and wonderful mother and

grandmother and she stayed in contact with her many loving nieces and nephews. She will be deeply missed but forever in the hearts of her three children and their families; Brenda Mohr (Clayton), Vernon (Deb) and Mark (Genny). Nita had four wonderful grandchildren, Joshua Mohr (Helo), Stacey (Mohr) Duffield (Jed), Samuel and Mathew Graham; two wonderful step-grandchildren, Autumn (Magnus) Johnson, Garth (Michelle) Westland; one great-grandchild, Alexandria Duffield; six step-great-grandchildren, Linnea and Mia Johnson; Layla Westland; Kaida, Kiera and Stephen Westland. Juanita was preceded in death by her step-grandson Seth Westland. The family thanks Nita's many friends and neighbors who helped her during the last couple years while she still lived independently in her home. She was lovingly invited to live in Yakima with her son and daughter-in-law, Vern and Deb, during the last seven months of her life. A Memorial Service is planned for Sunday, July 14, 1:00 pm, Ephrata Seventh-day Adventist Church. Graveside service to follow at Valley View Memorial Park in Soap Lake. Friends and family are invited to a no-host dinner, approximately 3:30, at Tequilas Restaurant in Ephrata. Arrangements are under the direction of Nicoles Funeral Home in Ephrata, Washington.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Memorial Park

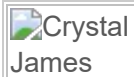
20174 Rd A N.E.
Soap Lake, WA 98851
(509) 754-4150
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Service

JUL 14. 1:00 PM (PT)
Ephrata Seventh Day Adventist Church
45 D St NE
Ephrata, WA 98823

Tribute Wall



Crystal
James

“ So sad to read of Nita's passing. She had so much energy & love to spread. I vividly remember a Winter afternoon that she & Lew had a Church Winter social at their home. As you can imagine there was much music, fun, and laughter. Nita & Lew offered their backyard as a wedding venue when Glen and I got married in '90 and we so appreciated it. Sorry to have missed her service but did not find out about her passing until today. Our condolences to the family. Crystal & Glen James

Crystal James - July 15, 2019 at 06:03 PM



ER

“ Mrs. Graham was my grade school teacher. She had a kind soul. She gave the gift of knowledge to so many. My condolences to her loved ones.

Erica - July 09, 2019 at 02:56 PM



TG

“ Mrs. Graham was my second grade teacher in Soap Lake and was my favorite elementary teacher. I don't ever remember her upset but I do remember her piano playing and singing. I thank her for the positive impact she had on her students.

Thomas Garrett - July 09, 2019 at 01:13 PM



“ I was blessed to meet Nita.
While I have been thanked for driving her back and forth to church, the blessing was on me.
Getting to spend the time, with one of God's daughters, was truly a gift to me.

Chairein Coughtry - July 09, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ All:

I have so many memories of my aunt Nita from a very young age until she passed. She was always gracious, caring and loving. The timing of her passing provided much pensive thought. My wife (Suzy) and I We learned of her passing from my cousin Brenda on July 1 (my birthday) while on a trip and about to return home. On returning home there was a birthday card to me from aunt Nita – she always remembered – in which she sent a note. I want to share that message.

June 2019

Dear Lowell

Recently in looking through family paperwork, I was that your birthday was on the first day of July. I thought you might like to hear about all the other “Graham” family members who also share the first day of the month birthday – fun family information!

January 1, 1924 Nita (Juanita Akers) Graham

February 1, Stacey (Mohr) Duffield – Brenda & Clayton’s daughter

July 1, Lowell Graham

August 1, Mathew Graham – Mark & Genny’s son

November 1, Joshua Mohr – Brenda & Clayton’s son

December 1, Brenda (Graham) Mohr – Nita and Lew’s daughter

Have a great birthday and a great “new year” ahead!

Love

Aunt Nita

How poignant to receive this and to learn that she passed on the 1st. She will be deeply missed.

With a very sad heart. Much love to the Graham family.

Lowell & Suzy Graham

Lowell Graham - July 08, 2019 at 10:37 PM

KO

“ *Kolleen O'Brien lit a candle in memory of Juanita Lucille Graham*



Kolleen O'Brien - July 08, 2019 at 06:38 PM

KO

“ *Mrs. Graham was my 2nd grade teacher and my favorite teacher of all time, so loving and caring.*

Kolleen O'Brien - July 08, 2019 at 06:37 PM



“ *Kim Schrag lit a candle in memory of Juanita Lucille Graham*



Kim Schrag - July 08, 2019 at 06:34 PM

LN

“ *Mrs. Graham was my second grade teacher in 1972 and I have many great memories of her. The last time I saw her was last summer I believe with her daughter or daughter in law at Safeway in Ephrata. She looked so wonderful and we talked for awhile and even though she said she remembered me I know there was no way she could have, but she never let on she didn't. I remember she always played the piano for all of our Christmas programs at school. Rest now for your work here on earth is done.*

Lynne Crawford Nelson

Lynne L Nelson - July 08, 2019 at 06:17 PM

KH

“ *Mrs Graham was my teacher at Church and School. She was gentle, kind and a great person to know. I wish the family my best.*
Kevin Husted

kevin husted - July 08, 2019 at 05:57 PM

MG

“ *Nita was a beautiful person. She loved her Lord most of all. Her and Lew were friends to everyone. She will be greatly missed. I remember when they let us have my daughter's wedding in their back yard.*
Marilyn Graffe

Marilyn Graffe - July 07, 2019 at 10:49 AM



She was one of my favorite teachers she will be missed

Julie Eakin - July 08, 2019 at 06:21 PM



Nita was a wonderful person. I had the fortune to know her in the few years I attended the Ephrata SDA church 1999 - 2003. We used to visit especially after putlucks. May she rest in peace.

PFdo Espinoza - July 09, 2019 at 07:41 PM

RG

Nita was an example of a Christian woman. She was so warm and loving, so encouraging and held a high standard. I was privileged to work with her in the children's department at church. We miss her most because she was our organist and pianist. We are looking forward to that grand day when Jesus comes in the clouds, blows His trumpet and the dead in Christ will rise again to meet Him in the air! What a wonderful day that will be!

Ruth Anne Gruber - July 13, 2019 at 08:59 PM

JG

Our family of 4, daughter Yvonne and son Eric, had many happy memories with both Lew and Nita. After Lew passed in away in 2004 we enjoyed more time being with Nita and her family. Nita was our talented church pianist and organist who we miss greatly. She played for our daughter Yvonne and Dr. Mark Hoover's wedding in 2005. Both Lew and Nita are resting in Jesus. They are awaiting the time Jesus will resurrect His saints to eternal life in the paradise of God's eternal Kingdom of peace and never ending fellowship with fellow believers!
Jim and Ruth Anne Gruber

Jim and Ruth Anne Gruber - July 15, 2019 at 11:59 AM