



## Vernel Ann Melbye-Helfrich

July 30, 1932 - April 28, 2019

### VERNEL (Bartholomew) MELBYE-HELFRICH

Vernel Melbye-Helfrich, 86, resident of Ephrata, Washington, passed away peacefully April 28, 2019 on her farm that she resided for 50 years.

The oldest of six children, Vernel was born on July 30, 1932, to Frank Vernard and Hannah Bartholomew in Los Angeles, California. As a young child the family moved to Edgewood Washington. The family would move between Edgewood and Tonasket, Washington. As the oldest, Vernel took on the role of helping raise her siblings. She graduated from Fife High School in 1950. In 1951, Vernel married, Donald Melbye and in 1956, the couple moved to Graham, Washington and then to Ephrata, Washington in 1969. Vernel was a wonderful homemaker, dedicated wife and mother to four children. As a young woman, Vernel was involved with her church sewing circle and also took on the role as a 4-H cooking leader. She enjoyed entering fair competitions and won many canning and baking awards. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting and took pride in her home which was known for being very neat and tidy.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Donald Melbye; husband of 14 years, William P. Helfrich; youngest son, Mark Melbye; brothers Richard and Bryce Bartholomew and sister Janice Hutton.

Vernel is survived by her oldest son Michael H. Melbye (Karen) of Cle Elum, WA; daughters Donna Ebberson of Kihei, HI and Cindy Greenwood of Vancouver, WA; brothers, David and William Bartholomew; sister-in-law Suzi

Bergfalk; grandchildren, Faith, Heidi, Troy, Erik, Autumn, Eli, Shetawn and Jerad; 18 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews of whom she loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held at Nicole's Funeral Home, Ephrata, WA at 1pm then proceeding to a graveside gathering at the Ephrata Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life for Vernel at the Bread of Life church 140-14th Avenue NW, after the graveside. Nicole's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Ephrata City Cemetery

333 E St. S.W.  
Ephrata, WA

# Previous Events

## Service

MAY 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

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

## Graveside

MAY 4. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (PT)

Ephrata City Cemetery  
333 E St. S.W.  
Ephrata, WA

## Reception

MAY 4. 3:00 PM (PT)

Bread of Life  
140 14th Ave N.W.  
Ephrata, WA 98823



# Tribute Wall



“ *Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park created a Tribute Video in memory of Vernel Ann Melbye-Helfrich*



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**Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park** - May 02, 2019 at 04:25 PM

JS

“ *I am privileged to have been a sister in Christ and friend of Vernel's. A favorite memory is of sitting in the church nursery with her in 1979. This one February Sunday she counseled me to take my daughter Abigail to the hospital after church and sure enough she had pneumonia. Now Abigail is expecting her second child and I know Vernel would feel connected to that ongoing gift of life. I miss visiting her at the farm and look forward to visiting again one day in heaven.*

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**Janice Amo Stefaniw** - May 31, 2019 at 10:33 PM

CA

“ We're terribly sorry to hear that Vernel is gone home. We think a lot of her. Her love of the Lord was an example to us.. Our children played/ schooled together and went to church together. I and my husband were Sunday school teachers and Christ Seekers leaders in our church and worked with her on many things.She wasn't afraid of work! We marveled at all she did! We know she's with out Lord! We wish you all peace and comfort..laugh at all the times you had together! God Bless..Don and Carolyn Anderson.

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**Carolyn Anderson** - May 01, 2019 at 05:42 PM