



June Pearl Bennett

December 14, 1925 - November 9, 2021

JUNE “JUNIE” PEARL BENNETT

December 14, 1925 – November 9, 2021

June “Junie” Pearl Bennett passed away November 9, 2021 about a month short of her 96th birthday. Junie was a true Oregonian! She was born in Portland, OR, to Alexander Anton and Ruth M. (Warman) Dambly. She and her twin brother, Junior Earl, were the youngest of 8 children and were raised in Portland. Their father left home when the “twins” were just four years old. The older sisters worked for “well-to-do” families to earn money for the family when they were 16 and 17 years old. The older brothers joined the Armed Services when they were also 16 and 17. Junie did not see her siblings, other than her twin brother, for 20 years. Junie was the only sibling to graduate from High School.

Junie met the “love of her life”, Vernon Theodore “Ted” Bennett, while she was waiting tables at the military base in Portland. Ted was just completing his service in the U.S. Air Force after having served in World War II. Ted asked Junie out on a date and was heard to say that he would “bet his monthly wages of \$50 that she would go out with him”! And she did. They were married in Vancouver, WA by a Justice of the Peace on June 21, 1945. They honeymooned in Astoria, OR while on Ted’s three-day military pass. They lived in Portland while Ted, who was working as an airplane mechanic, was stationed there yet he longed to return to his hometown of Philomath. Junie had never been out of Portland yet agreed to move to Philomath to be a part of the “13 siblings” Bennett family. Ted worked for 3G Lumber Company driving lumber trucks for 33 years until he retired. Junie worked as a grocery checker at IGA, and then later at Safeway for 19 years. She loved her customers and they loved her. They were socially active in the Elks Lodge of Corvallis No. 1413 (where Ted was an Exalted Ruler) as well as the Corvallis Moose Lodge No. 1411. They enjoyed dancing, listening to music and spending time with their large extended family and friends. Junie and Ted enjoyed 53 wonderful years of marriage before Ted’s unexpected death at the age of 73 in a car accident in 1997.

Losing the “love of her life” was very difficult for Junie. She ultimately moved to Meadow

Park Estates where she bought a home which she came to love. It was her goal to make her homes and yards look pretty and went to great lengths to make it so. She met so many wonderful new friends and maintained the friendships of others from years past. She enjoyed a very busy social calendar which included playing a variety of card and dice games and enjoying the company of friends but her activities diminished with the onset of Covid-19. Junie was the consummate “social butterfly” who always had a smile for others, was happy, always thinking of others and had a gift of focusing a conversation on others, rather than herself.

In 2004, Junie met Norman “Norm” Ray Kerns and they enjoyed their friendship for 14 years. They would regularly exercise at 6:30 a.m. together at WOW Fitness and later at Timberhill Athletic Club as they recognized the importance of exercising regularly. Norm and Junie began traveling to Yuma, AZ, for the winter, in 2005. Norm had a travel trailer where they stayed and there was a group of family and friends who gathered each year with them. They loved to dance, go to concerts, spend time with friends and attend various other social activities, until their mobility declined. Norm passed away earlier this year at the age of 90.

After an illness that hospitalized Junie in April, 2021, she realized she needed full-time care and decided to move to Stonybrook Assisted Living in Corvallis. She enjoyed the exercise classes, piano performances, playing Bingo and other activities. She also enjoyed the many visits from her friends and family who would take her out to lunch or take her for a drive. Moving away from her home and friends of 28 years at Meadow Park Estates was challenging for her. She had just begun developing friendships at Stonybrook, evidenced by the lovely comments about June after she passed. Junie never lost her smile nor her desire to make others feel better and maybe even make them smile. June is preceded in death by her husband, Ted, her long-time friend/partner, Norm, all of her siblings, Margaret, Marian, Mildred, James, Helen, Eugene and her twin brother, Junior Earl, who passed away earlier this year. She is survived by a multitude of nieces and nephews on both sides of the family as well as many friends whose lives she has so blessed and touched.

A Celebration of Junie’s Life will be held Saturday, December 4th. Memorial contributions may be made to Lumina Hospice, in care of McHenry Funeral Home in Corvallis. On-line condolences may be posted at mchenryfuneralhome.com. Junie’s family and friends wish to deeply thank all of the angels at Lumina Hospice of Benton County for their love and care of her during the past 7 months.

Comments



“ My precious Auntie June taught me so many amazing life lessons. The greatest lesson I received from her were the thoughtful caring acts she did for so many family and friends in her life. What a wonderful role model how she gave of her time and energy to others. Almost 96 years old and not once did she complain about her health issues, but just extremely determined to get up early the next day to exercise and help others. Kind words were always the path she showed me. I miss her already but rejoice knowing heaven gained an incredibly special person. If you know Auntie June and close your eyes for a minute you can feel those fantastic long hugs she gave. Just wish I could get one more. Love my Auntie June deeply.
Rick Bennett

Rick Bennett - November 15, 2021 at 11:02 PM



“ June was an amazing person and, if you knew her, she would have made an indelible impression upon you. She was joy personified! Even though she went through seasons of great physical pain herself, she always had a beautiful smile and warm, encouraging word for everyone. As we celebrate her life on December 4th, it will be a party! No sad faces for "Junie Bird"! She has joined her "Teddy" in heaven and they are dancing eternity away! She was one of a kind!

Jim Thomas - November 19, 2021 at 04:35 PM



“ June, was one of my favorites of my parent's friends. She was always complimentary to me, and especially when Ted would bring up that he saw me driving my Dad's delivery truck on the road over to Harlan.
She just thought it was fantastic that I could negotiate those switchback curves, with a load of regular gas, and do so solo at age 17.. (I had a great teacher).. Always just a ray of sunshine, and I was always thrilled when she and Ted would join the Roaming Antlers on the many 3 day, holiday weekend camping trips in the summers of 1968 through 1972, before I moved on in my life to areas outside of Corvallis. Rest in Peace, dear June.

Tom Tracewell - November 21, 2021 at 09:03 PM