



Vivian Hawkins

July 18, 1917 - August 26, 2015

Vivian Frances Hawkins

Resident of Corvallis for 55 years

Vivian was born on July 18, 1917 in Adrian, Minnesota and grew up in Milbank, South Dakota. She passed on while sleeping at home in Corvallis on August 26, 2015. She was 98. Survived by: wonderful friend and companion Harland Pratt, daughter Judy Mutch and her husband Jim, grandson William Mutch, granddaughter Alicia Mutch and her husband John Lundblad, her great granddaughter Emily Lundblad, sisters Jane Hinsvark of Aurora, Colorado, Myrtle Pollard of Wichita Falls, Texas and Phyllis Hanner of Milbank, South Dakota. She would say on a regular basis that she was lucky to have married three good men. She was predeceased by husbands Kenneth Thompson, Leland Chambers and Jim Hawkins.

Vivian grew up during the Great Depression and experienced great swings between wealth and poverty. These experiences forged her frugal character. She was among the oldest of 14 children and survived 10 of her siblings. Everyone describes her as a determined and strong woman and a very hard worker. One of her favorite activities up until the very end was baking bread and desserts for family and those who had helped her out in some way. As a baby she had both the Spanish flu and smallpox. No one expected her to live. She did! As an older child she had an acute form of crippling rheumatism. No one expected her to walk again. She did! In her prime, up until a few years ago, she walked 6 – 8 miles a day. She loved bright colors, and Corvallis residents could often see her walking in her red suit and signature fur hat. As a young woman growing up in South Dakota, dancing was one of her favorite hobbies. She told many stories about dancing to live performances by Lawrence Welk and his band.

During her life in Corvallis, she took pride in doing her own yard work and was particularly proud of having a tidy and well kept lawn and flower beds. In her 90's she experienced separately two broken hips and a fractured vertebra. Everyone told her she wouldn't be able to live independently again. With the help of loving friends and her innate resiliency

and determination, she did, and achieved her goal of being able to pass quietly in her own home. Her last words were, "Don't worry about me, I'm a strong woman." It is rare to meet anyone like her in a lifetime. We're all lucky to have known her and love her very much. In lieu of flowers or donations of any kind, please pass along acts of kindness to all. Her family will celebrate her life in a private memorial service.

Comments



“ I Loved Vivian. She lived down the street and whenever she needed some "medical advice" she would stop in at our office, Heresco Chiropractic, and brighten up the whole office. She will be missed. Rest in peace Vivian - you were a fine woman!!

Frank Heresco - September 21, 2015 at 05:01 PM



“ I was saddened to hear, yesterday, of Vivian's death. When I first saw this elderly woman pass my home I discovered she was a neighbor and almost daily, I watched her make her way towards town. Over the last ten years I have lived here, if I was in the garden working, Vivian would stop and chat always accompanied by a hug and a kiss on the cheek. Even as her ability to walk became difficult and painful for her, she still got out her 'walker' and headed out the door! What an inspiration she has been for me! Thank you Vivian; I will truly miss you!

Maureen Swanson - neighbor - September 13, 2015

Maureen Swanson - September 13, 2015 at 10:38 AM



“ The news I received today of Vivian's death saddens me. It was always a marvel to see this elderly woman walking from her home on 9th Street past my home on her daily walks down town. When she could no longer walk on her own, she could be seen taking these same walks with the aid of her walker. She mowed her own lawn and tended her beautiful gardens almost entirely by herself. She was an inspiration to me to 'keep moving' regardless of age and pain. Thank you Vivian. I will truly miss you!

Maureen Swanson - neighbor - September 12, 2015

Maureen Swanson - September 12, 2015 at 11:42 PM



“ Several of us first met Vivian at Burtons Restaurant where she regularly had Sunday breakfast. Always smartly dressed and friendly. Over time we marveled at her tenacious spirit, interesting life and endless energy. She was always excited when planning to see her children. When Burton's closed, we continued to have "Vivian sitings" and were happy to find her unchanged, tending to her garden and life. A life well lived!

B. Avery - September 05, 2015 at 06:47 PM



“ It is hard to tell you about Vivian. She was the 4th of 14 children. So not only was there years between us there lots of miles. But what a blessing the telephone was. We talked a lot and was so proud of Judy and she loved to talk about that new baby. Even about the little red wagon She wasn't sure she wanted to be 100 so the Lord seen she was tired. Those ole weeds were not about to give up So he decided to give her a break. Judy and Jim I know your hearts are breaking but remember she loved you and appreciated all you did. My prayers, Mike, Patty, Larry & Ray Ann are with you. Love aunt Phyllis

Phyllis A Hanner - August 30, 2015 at 03:48 PM



“ What a wonderful lady Mrs. Hawkins was. I thought she would be with us forever. Every interaction I had with her was a great experience. I couldn't take her money for the mint compost she order but she more than paid for it with a wonderful loaf of bread and numerous hugs before I left. She was true gem and I will miss her.
Jeff Pratt

Jeff Pratt - August 28, 2015 at 10:07 AM