



Esther Gellatly

March 15, 1926 - August 12, 2012

Esther Vera Gellatly, 86, of Philomath passed away Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, at the home of her daughter, Chris Rayborn, in Portland.

Esther was born in Faith, S.D., to Lucille and Hugh Anderson, the oldest of their seven children. In 1936, the family moved to Oregon, where Esther graduated from Philomath High School with the Class of 1944. She also attended business college in Salem.

She married James McNelly in 1944, and was widowed in 1945. While interim postmaster of Philomath, she met Raymond Gellatly. They were married May 14, 1947.

She was the mother of five children: James (and Sheryl) McNelly of Damascus; Nancy (and Duane) Dale and Chris (and Robert) Rayborn, both of Portland; and Douglas Gellatly and Dan (and Sandy) Gellatly, both of Philomath.

Besides serving as postmaster of Philomath, Esther was a bookkeeper for the Benton County YMCA and for Raymond's Well Drilling, and held positions at Fred Meyer in Corvallis until she retired. She was a flower show judge and a member of the Philomath Garden Club and Marys River Grange. Esther was an active member of Philomath Church of the Nazarene for many years.

In addition, throughout her life she was a homemaker, prolific quilt-maker, and loving mother and grandmother extraordinaire. Esther loved games, playing cards and board games with her grandchildren, as well as bowling, gardening and hunting.

She is survived by her children; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; sisters Pearl Flegal and Irene Oleman of Philomath; and brothers Glen Anderson of Salem, Dean Anderson of Philomath and Dale Anderson of Alsea. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond; and her brother, Merwin Anderson.

A public viewing with family in attendance is set for 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Fifth St. in Corvallis. Services will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21, at Suburban Christian Church, 2760 S.W. 53rd St. in Corvallis. A reception at Mary's River Grange will follow the service. Private interment will take place in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

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“ *I only met Esther once or twice. I'd like to think we were kindred souls. I admired her for her smarts and skills. I'm very sorry we lost her...*

Terry Diemer - August 18, 2012 at 02:28 AM

JL

“ *We are saddened to hear of the loss of Esther. She was very special to so many people. We always enjoyed our visits with her at the special family gatherings. May the family be comforted with all of the wonderful memories of her. We are sorry we can not attend her funeral service. You are in our prayers at this most difficult time in your lives.*

In Sympathy, Paul and Jeanne Long

Jeanne and Paul Long - August 17, 2012 at 06:40 PM