



## Opal Eileen Grossnicklaus

February 17, 1924 - November 21, 2021

Born February 17, 1924 to James and Jessie (Belknap) Barrett at Creston, Nebraska. She was raised on a farm outside of Creston with her three brothers. Was graduated from Creston High School in 1941. Opal passed away on November 21, 2021 in Corvallis, Oregon.

She did secretarial work until enlisting in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) in the United States Naval Reserve immediately after the D-Day invasion of Europe in June 1944. Recruit training at Hunter College in the Bronx, NY, followed by yeoman school at Oklahoma A&M, Stillwater, OK. Duty in the Captain's office, USNAS, Ottuma, IA, and after the end of WWII, she served a year at the Personnel Separation Center, Lambert Field, St. Louis, MO. Achieved rating of Yeoman 1C. Received honorable discharge from Personnel Center, Great Lakes, Chicago, IL in August 1946. She immediately re-enlisted in the USNR, serving on inactive duty until second honorable discharge in April 1949.

Married Eugene L. Grossnicklaus April 13, 1947 at Creston, NE and moved to Oregon. Her husband died December 22, 1968.

She worked as a self-employed professional typist for 30 years, followed by office work at Oregon State University from 1986 until retirement in 1992. Charter member of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, its Women's Guild, and senior Bible class.

Charter member of WIMSA (Women in Military Service for America) and WAVES National Cascade Seafarers Unit #138 in Oregon.

Her interests included family, travel, camping and hiking, photography, movies, needlework, gardening, and flower arrangements.

Preceded in death by her parents James and Jessie Barrett, brothers Earl Barrett (Agnes) of Wilmar, MN, Gordon Barrett (Florice) of Norco, CA, Lowell Barrett of Scio OR, by her husband Eugene L. Grossnicklaus, her daughter Leslie Bjornbak of Springfield, OR, and son-in-law Pete Nissila.

Survivors include sons Reed Grossnicklaus (Debbie Berrow) Creswell, OR and Kevin Grossnicklaus (Carmen), Salem, OR; daughters Koren Hughes, British Columbia, Jill Nissila, Milwaukie, OR, Heidi Spilde (Mark), Corvallis, OR, and Alison Grossnicklaus, Springfield, OR. She had seven grandchildren: Aaron Barrett, Kara O'Halloran, Rudy Grossnicklaus, Alex Spilde, Faith Grossnicklaus, Marcie Schellenberg, Gillian Schellenberg. and two great-grandchildren, Laila Buczynski and Lola Schellenberg.

Memorial service will be held at McHenry Funeral Home in Corvallis, Oregon on Monday November 29, 2021 at 10:00am, followed by interment at Twin Oaks. Memorial contribution suggestions: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church building fund (Corvallis, OR), American Diabetes Association, or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Twin Oaks Memorial Gardens

34275 Riverside Dr  
Albany, OR 97321

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

NOV **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home  
206 NW 5th St.  
Corvallis, OR

# Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Opal Eileen Grossnicklaus*



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**McHenry Funeral Home** - November 29, 2021 at 12:27 PM

RG

“ *Thank you so much to all the friends of the Village, members of mom's church, cousins and family that could attend her funeral. I feel a void in my heart with the loss of her life but the sympathy and warm thoughts I've received seems to have filled that space and is radiating out. She is dearly missed but keeps living on in so many memories. I have learned much from her example and will be forever grateful for the times we have shared.*

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**reed grossnicklaus** - November 30, 2021 at 10:32 AM

SN

“ *I met Opal three years ago when I moved into the Samaritan Village Retirement Community. During our first conversation we discovered her daughter Korene and I had gone to high school together. Every time I walked by her apartment I enjoyed her beautiful flowers and plants. It was a special treat when Opal was outside enjoying her flowers. She had a quiet, gentle spirit and a sweet smile. I will miss her. Praying for her family during this difficult time. Hoping memories of your mother will bring you comfort and a little joy. I will miss you, Opal. Sandy Nored*

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**Sandy Nored** - November 24, 2021 at 01:41 AM

BB

*I'm not happy about a world without Aunt Opal, but am so thankful for the times we had together. She was always a fount of information about our family, and such a positive influence on all of us. I remember our hike at Mt. Rushmore, enjoying Belknap Springs, fun at the park in Creston, so many cousins in Corvallis 😊 I love you Aunt Opal, Bonnie*

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**Bonnie Broussard** - November 25, 2021 at 03:35 PM