



Virginia Peterson

August 8, 1921 - September 4, 2020

Virginia Elizabeth Lessman Peterson, age 99, from Glendive, MT went to be united with her loved ones in Heaven on the evening of September 4, 2020 at Saint John's United Home in Billings, MT with family by her side. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, September 14, 2020 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glendive with Father Francis Schreiber officiating. Rite of Committal will follow in Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Virginia was born on August 8, 1921 to Joseph and Cecilia Lessman in Sioux Pass, Montana.

Virginia married William Grant Peterson in 1938. To this union 6 children were born. Richard, Janet, Charles (Shorty), Patricia, Donna and David. Richard passed away when he was 21 years of age and Patricia passed away when she was 2 ½.

Virginia was a stay at home Mom for most of her life. She loved her children and was an excellent "MOM". She loved to bake and made bread weekly. Often she would make several loaves at a time and give to neighbors and occasionally a homeless man. We lived next to a church and not far from the railroad tracks, so she had visitors wanting a "hand me out" coming from the trains. She was an excellent cook, as well, preparing many of our favorite meals for her family. Virginia, also, made the best candy and goodies at Christmas! Including fudge, divinity, caramels and cookies of all kinds. Her

caramel rolls were to die for!

Virginia took in ironing for extra money. Later when her kids were all in school she started babysitting for the local Music Teachers, Ron and Audrey Wiley. She loved little Kent as her own.

When Kent went to school, Mom was left wondering what to do. My Dad worked at the Telephone Company and they were looking for someone to make lunches for the staff and the telephone operators. They set up a little kitchen and Mom would make rolls for morning and lunch for noon. Everyone loved her and enjoyed her yummy meals. She retired from the Telephone Company when the Operators were replaced by automation.

Mom and Dad loved company. You were always welcome at their home.

Virginia was so helpful as a Grandma. She would take the kids for the weekend when we needed some time for ourselves. We knew she loved our kids deeply and it was reassuring to know the kids were in good hands. She always enjoyed visits from her children and grandchildren!

Virginia and Grant would drop everything to help their children. If you were painting or cleaning they were there to help you! They also built and remodeled several older homes, as well as, building a new home from the ground up. I remember she had a huge garden at this new home. Which meant she did a lot of canning of veggies.

Grant and Virginia loved to travel. We had probably 20+ different recreational vehicles. Starting with the pull-type trailer, to the pickup topper, to motor homes and 5th wheelers. Mom liked to have a lot of cupboard room so they traded often to find just the perfect fit in each category for living and sleeping space.

They traveled all over the US. Going to Mesa often in the winter, they decided to purchase a place there. There was a lot to do in that community of "Snow Birds" and they enjoyed the activities that were provided. Which brings me to cards. Mom and Dad loved to play cards. All kinds but especially pinochle. They would have friends over to play cards almost every Friday or Saturday night. They also played whist and gin rummy.

Mom was a very good seamstress. She sewed several centennial dresses for the 1976 Centennial Days in Glendive. It was a big event and she made many beautiful long dresses with matching purses and hats.

Mom was an entertainer, she liked playing in the kitchen band. She loved to make different costumes for the holidays and go around to the Nursing Home and Grandview Retirement in Glendive handing out candy to the residents.

Some of the costumes she made were: February- she made herself a valentine, March- she was a Leprechaun, April- an Easter Bunny, May- Graduation gown for those graduating, June- Wedding Dress, July- she was all decked out in a top hat and clothes that were red, white and blue, September she would put a back pack on for back to school, October was a witch or ghost, November she was a turkey, December was different every year, sometimes an elf, angel, snowman, Santa.

When Dad passed away, Mom met a man at the Senior Citizens. His name was Harold. They enjoyed spending time together and he picked her up and drove her around where ever she would like to go. They enjoyed going to dinner together and kept each other company.

Virginia lived at Grandview retirement center for 5 years. She knew several of the people there and loved to play cards. She moved to Billings for medical reasons and lived at the River Ridge Assisted living in Billings for 3 years. She then transferred to St. Johns Chapel Court where she lived for a few years before moving to Rimview Square North at St. John's United.

She was preceded in death by Grant, her husband of 59 years, son Richard, daughter Patricia, her three brothers, Richard, Bob, Ted and grandson, Chancy.

Virginia is survived by her children Janet Kelnhofer of Goodyear, AZ, Shorty Peterson of Red Lodge, MT, Donna (Rick) Kniepkamp of Lindsay, MT, David (Tammy) Peterson of Park City, MT.

She is also survived by several grandchildren; Joey (Donna) Kelnhofer, Vickie (John) McNeil, Danny Kelnhofer, Barry Kelnhofer, Ole (Alison) Peterson,

Ginny (Bo) Segeberg, Kristi (Kevin) Chase, Staci (Doug) Hammell, Tiffany (Jaden) Erwin, Cassie Peterson, Kaylee Peterson, Cole Peterson and Richard Peterson and several great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers or memorials please take time to take a loved one out to dinner, read to a child, play some cards or go for a walk and enjoy what God has made for us!

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
316 West Benham Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia Peterson*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *When my mom told me the sad news my heart sunk. Even though I was very young I have so many wonderful memories of Virginia taking care of me. I think I partially learned how to count and add in four suits, from 2 to ACE playing 31 with her and friends that came over to play cards and have her wonderful baked deliciousness. Shorty, Donna and David, thank you for sharing your mom and thank you for all the times you played with me and put up with me. Sending thoughts and prayers to your entire family.*

Kent Wiley - September 19, 2020 at 10:38 PM



“ *Our condolences to your family Donna on the loss of your mother. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.*



Denise Borotrager - September 11, 2020 at 01:30 AM



“ *When I first met Virginia, I want sure I would like her as she was sitting in what used to be my grandma's chair. It didn't take long and I came to love her. She made my grandpa happy and I will always be thankful that they had each other. I am so sorry for your loss, Virginia was a kind, loving human being.*

Leigh Hass Zell - September 10, 2020 at 03:19 PM

DH

“ There are so many, but my most favorite is how she made my grandpa smile again after they found each other. Thinking of you all.

Dina House - September 10, 2020 at 02:18 PM

RO

“ it was always a joy to run into Virginia, her smiling face and her gift to talk.

ronald opp - September 10, 2020 at 10:31 AM

BT

“ Becky Tipton lit a candle in memory of Virginia Peterson



Becky Tipton - September 08, 2020 at 06:58 PM

BT

“ Donna and Family so sorry for your loss! I have many fond memories of your mom!
Cherish your Memories and Hold them Close
RIP Virginia!

Becky Tipton - September 08, 2020 at 06:58 PM

CP

“ Donna & family. So sorry to read of your loss. Sounds like she lived a fun filled life. Cherish all those many wonderful memories.

Cherise Patterson - September 08, 2020 at 05:00 PM

MG

“ Donna and family, I am sorry to hear of your mothers' passing. Please know I am keeping you and your family close in thought and prayer. ~Mary Jo Gehmert

Mary Jo Gehmert - September 08, 2020 at 03:46 PM

EL

“ This beautiful lady brought a ray of sunshine and fun into the lives of so many people. I'm so thankful her life touched me. Bless her memory among us



Eula Langton - September 06, 2020 at 11:20 PM

CH

“ Carol Hanson lit a candle in memory of Virginia Peterson



Carol Hanson - September 06, 2020 at 12:51 PM

SK

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I will always remember her coming to visit her mom at GMC nursing home. Dressed up for a holiday, always visiting with the other residents.



Sheila Knutson - September 06, 2020 at 11:24 AM