



## Bette June Johnson

June 27, 1923 - January 22, 2021

Bette Lawless Johnson, 97, passed peacefully at home, surrounded by family, January 22, 2021. She was born June 27, 1923, in Albion, MT to Paul and Florence (Shepard) Grimes. Bette often spoke about the joys and trials of growing up on their sheep ranch near Belle Fourche SD. Those memories often included adventures with her siblings and cousins, her horse "Cricket", and her years spent attending the Grimes School. She loved her teacher, who lived in the schoolhouse, and didn't attend public school until the family moved to Cashmere WA in 1937.

Bette met her first husband, Dick Lawless, in Wenatchee on a weekend trip home from Seattle, where she was employed at a bomb factory. They were married on December 31, 1945 in Pateros and made their home in Brewster. Bette belonged to the Brewster Bridge Club, a bowling league, and was a Cub Scout and Bluebird leader while happily raising her children. Bette & Dick both enjoyed gathering friends for seafood feasts and special occasions. Dick owned several businesses during their 17 years together, before passing in 1962.

Bette then met her second husband, Don Johnson, when he moved to Brewster for a job constructing Wells Dam, and rented an apartment from her. They were married on June 6, 1965 in Brewster, creating a blended family (his 5 with her 4) making summers always fun and extra busy! They moved to their

home on the Columbia River in 1976, and it became a favorite destination for many. They moved to Elma in 1980 before returning to their home on the river in 1983. They enjoyed their motorhome adventures, whether visiting family or going cross country exploring family history along the way. Bette was passionate about genealogy, even writing her now treasured life story. Bette & Don also lived in Bellevue for 6 years, where they served as temple workers, following Don's retirement. Their next move was to East Wenatchee in 2000, where they continued enjoying their grandkids and great grandkids activities. They were married for more than 40 years before Don's passing in 2005.

Bette was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was happiest when surrounded by family and friends. Her home was the gathering place for many different occasions, weddings, holidays, birthdays, graduations, FHE groups, reunions, etc. All were welcome and no one ever left hungry. She enjoyed gardening, especially her dahlias, ceramics, quilting, spoiling her grandkids, and traveling. Her most memorable trips were to Hawaii, Europe, and taking an Alaskan cruise.

Most of all, she loved her family and we loved her. We plan to honor and celebrate her life on what would have been her 100th birthday with that dance she so looked forward to. In one of her last lucid moments she talked of the reunions that were near, and about living in heaven with her 2 husbands.....and then she laughed. It's a sound we'll all miss but never forget.

Bette is survived by her children: Nancy Pizzitola of Brewster, Gerry Lawless of East Wenatchee, Carlee Lawless (Tim) of Brewster, and John Lawless (Lisa) of East Wenatchee. Bonus children also surviving her are: Dick Lawless (Dee) of East Wenatchee, Doug Johnson (Cathy) of Idaho Falls ID, Sue Montgomery (Ron) of Taylorsville UT, Steve Johnson of Central City NB, Larry Johnson (Becky) of St. George UT, and Chuck Johnson (Vickie) of Layton UT. She leaves a loving legacy of 45 grandchildren, 108 great-grandchildren and

12 great-great-grandchildren! She is also survived by 2 brothers, Carl Grimes, of Prosser, and Jim Grimes, of Grandview. Bette was preceded in death by 4 brothers: Tom, Gene, Bob, and Melvin, her sister, Kathy Asmussen, and both husbands.

A visitation for Bette will be held at the Chapel of the Valley Funeral Home in East Wenatchee from 2:00pm to 6:00pm on Thursday, February 4, 2020. A private graveside service will be held on Friday, February 5, 2021. Bette's online tribute may be viewed at [chapelofthevalleyncw.com](http://chapelofthevalleyncw.com) where friends and family are welcome to express their thoughts or share a memory. The family would like to extend a special thanks to Gisela Menssen for all her loving care.

# Tribute Wall

KG

“*Bettie was an amazing woman. In many aspects of her life, not just one. I knew her because my niece is one of her daughters-in-law. I probably knew her between 8 and 10 years. I believe that Don was already in heaven when I met her. I had several nice visits with Betty, and helped her a few times years ago. And she let me stay in her house for five or six days one time when I was taking a class in East Wenatchee. And her granddaughter Elizabeth was living at the house then at the time as well. She was so sweet. I love how much she loved her daughter Carlee's honey, I loved her passion for genealogy, and life stories, and everything family. She loved her family so very much. Each individual that came to see her, she would pay attention to them, and of course she always loved the great grandchildren and their grandchildren to be in her lap and she would talk to them and look at them and love each one individually Bettie had an amazing ability to greet everyone that was at her home. I remember her home was headquarters for several different functions, in the summertime events were so fun because the barbecue is going & the kids were running in the backyard and inside events were special as well. I remember a Christmas when desert was at Grandma Bette's and everyone in Wenatchee that night that was family, or shirttail relatives, was invited. Her living room was packed with people but it was such a fun eve and there was so much love and affectionate displayed from everyone; different people were doing different things but the kids were by Grandma and then they'd go play a game and it was just a fun night and very crowded but very fun and I certainly was a shirttail relative and I felt privileged to be invited. I will miss Bette, but I know she went to an amazing place. There are not enough words to describe how amazing Betty was. On many levels. So God bless Bette now, and forever. She left a lasting impression on many of us.*”

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**Karen Gordon** - February 03, 2021 at 05:43 PM

KS

“ We will always be grateful to Bette for her unfailing hospitality in opening her home to family and friends for any and all occasions that were coming up; birthday celebrations, mission farewells, family dinners, wedding receptions, Sunday dinners or dessert parties. Her home was the focal point of the family and the extended family. We were always welcomed to stop by and visit anytime we were even close around. There was a warm, friendly feeling there, a feeling of love, acceptance and joy. She loved her family, every single one of them and she loved us as family too. She will be missed.  
Larry and Kathleen Shutt

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**Kathleen Shutt** - February 03, 2021 at 04:47 PM