



Charlotte Ruth Zimmerly

June 7, 1935 - January 19, 2011

Charlotte Ruth (Phillips Smythe) Zimmerly was born on June 7, 1935 in the front bedroom of the family home at Route 2 Ridgefield, WA to Earl and Ruth Phillips. She died January 19, 2011, peacefully and unexpectedly at home in Vancouver, WA, from a brain aneurism. She was a young 75 years old. Charlotte grew up in Sara/Ridgefield Washington and graduated from Ridgefield High School. A review of her yearbook tells a story of a girl involved in club activities, sports and cheerleading with many close friends. The friendships she developed were long lasting and she cherished those friends and continued those relationships into her adult life. Charlotte was very involved in her church, Southridge Community of Christ, and considered the members a part of her family. She was a Deacon and a Sunday school teacher to three generations and was especially known for her abilities with crafts in her classroom. Charlotte (and her husband Sam) played key roles in restoring and maintaining the Lewis River Campgrounds for many years and served as hosts in their cabin to countless numbers of youngsters in the church. On Sunday January 23rd her church family had a special gathering for sharing with each other. It was comforting to hear all of the remembering and acknowledgments of her love, enthusiasm and effort shared in support of the good life for everyone in so many aspects of her life. Throughout her life she wore many hats, as teacher's assistant at Orchards Elementary School, as landlord with her husband, as pie maker with her church for the Clark County Fair and for Sharehouse, and as field boss at Erickson's farms where she is

still remembered for creating "the King Bean" as an award for the best picker and for being quick to join in on strawberry fights with the young pickers. She was a memory maker, a good fairy bringing treats in the night for unsuspecting children and she energized her own inner child riding great roller coasters and building sand castles with her family. Every year she embraced her passion for creating a winter wonderland of Christmas spirit with as many as 28 trees or more with many village scenes and Santas, nutcrackers and angels throughout their home. It was not unusual for visitors to find a Christmas wonderland in the Zimmerly home even in the middle of summer. Charlotte and her husband Sam were two halves that made up one whole amazing being. He was her "Prince" and she was his "Honey." They were inseparable 26 hours of every day. Whether it was watching a beautiful sunset in their own backyard by the pond or one in Hawaii, Greece, Africa, Rome, China, Australia or any of the many places around the world they had traveled, it was always together. They were best friends and lovers who never failed to kiss and hug each other and say "I Love You" every single day, and usually several times a day, in their 42 years of marriage. Charlotte loved her family, friends and traveling with her husband to the beach and around the world. She so enjoyed working in her yard and found great satisfaction in giving visitors a tour of the latest bulbs or blossoms as they emerged. Charlotte was the "go to" for any and all challenges and she embraced all opportunities to help others when needed. Her emails were a constant presence in the lives of family and friends the world over. Charlotte had an unending energy and spirit that brought a light to every space she entered. Accepting of all, she embraced the good in all of us and encouraged us to be the best people we could be. She was an angel here on earth that cared with love and joy for all those who were lucky enough to have her touch their lives here and around the world. Her spirit and joy will live on forever. She is survived by her husband, Sam (Sammy) Zimmerly, her sister Shirley Chapman and husband Jim, children Don Zimmerly and wife Tina, Deborah Palmer and husband Jackie, Becky Swedblom, John Smythe III and wife

RaDawn, Janice Greiff. Charlotte had 19 grandchildren: Nick Zimmerly, Mindi Zimmerly, Zoey Zimmerly, David Peer, Jody Davis, Brandy McEllrath and husband Pete, Amber Langley-Jones and husband Billy, Courtney Langley and significant other Jim Sinclair, Kirsten Swedblom, Annie Swedblom, John Smythe IV (mother Carrie Waffle), Jared Smythe, Heidi Storey and husband Ladarius, Heather Martin and husband Kawan, Monica Middleton and husband Russell, Jessica Bartin and fiance Jonathan Manley, Jessica Melton and husband Derek, Nicole Greiff and fiance Mason Barlow, and 28 great grandchildren: Dylan, Dustin, Brianna, Devante, Ian, Nneka, Sydney, Joseph, Isaiah, Gillian, Palley, Petra, Caleb, Garrett, Tyler, Makayla, Kodee, Monique, Erica, Jaxon, Tayler, Macie, Isabella, Sophia, Ladarius Jr, ShaNice, Isaiah and innumerable nieces, nephews and extended family and friends around the world. She was well known for "adopting" children and adults alike and loved them all as her own. Charlotte was preceded in death by her first husband, Jackie Smythe (died in a car accident April 4, 1968), parents Earl and Ruth Phillips and daughters Linda and Susan. In Charlotte's memory donations may be made to Outreach International www.outreach-international.org; or Heifers International www.heifer.org. Sam's hope is that in Charlotte's memory you will enjoy & cherish your family and friends every day and shower them with lots of love and hugs. A Memorial service will be held to honor Charlotte's life and memory at 2pm Feb 5, Community of Christ Church 400 NE 179th St Ridgefield, WA.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 08:25 PM

BG

“ You have showed me so much about life. What life is suppose to be about, not what media propaganda wants it to be....Your heart poured over with love and care and I am very joyful that some of it spilled on to me. Oh and don't worry about the flowers I will try to take care of them but I think they miss you too. I seen you bring people together and I am sure that you are happy to see that even now some of those people have a better bond..... Well I love you grandma and I hope to live my life great as you did so that I will get to see you another day!!

Billy G.Jones - May 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I apologize I wasn't able to make it to the service due to a prior life engagement, however she meant a lot to me and my kids (Joseph & Isaiah). What she shared to us all cannot be measured. I'm just glad to say that I knew her and only wished I could've spent more time. My love and prayers go out to you Sam!

Joseph Harris - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Sam, I'm glad I got to read this. What a wonderful summary of a larger than life person. She taught us all a lot on living well. Continue to take good care of yourself and know you are loved

Penny Hammac - March 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ SAMMY, THE DEATH OF YOUR CHARLOTTE WAS THE SOVEREIGN DECISION OF GOD AND HIS GRACE POLICY. NEITHER SHE NOR YOU HAD ANY CONTROL OVER THE TIME, THE MANNER OR THE PLACE OF HER DEATH, IT WAS GOD'S PERFECT WISDOM, HIS PERFECT INTERGRITY AND PERFECT LOVE. SINCE CHARLOTTE'S DEATH WAS HIS DICISION, HER DEATH IS GOD'S VICTORY. "PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS GODLY ONES." PS. 116.15 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"...."BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST" 1COR.15:55,57. YOUR ARE FORTUNIATE, YOU HAVE ALMOST 43 YEARS OF MEMORIES WITH CHARLOTTE AND THE REALITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO SUSTAIN YOU FOR WHAT EVER TIME YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU ARE WITH CHARLOTTE AGAIN AND FACE TO FACE WITH THE LORD. IT WAS A BLESSING AND A PRIVILEGE TO KNOW CHARLOTTE.

MARTIN B. CAMERON - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Sam, When I was with you and Chardy, I truly knew what love was. She not only loved you but she loved Jesus too. I have peace because I know she is in him arms and with the rest of the family. I loved her so much and her smile will be with me forever. Love Sharon

Sharon Ellis - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Charlotte's love for others, generosity, energy and enthusiasm for life will be terribly missed. Charlotte was the best mother-in-law and friend, a girl could've had! Love, Carrie

Carrie Waffle - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Memories of Charlotte will always be prominent in my mind of time spent at Lewis River campgrounds. Charlotte was the type of person to help on any occasion with humor & good intentions.

Lois Buchanan - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Sam and Family, We were shocked and saddened to read of Charlotte's death. Thinking of you and sending our thoughts and prayers Sincerely, Dick and Marion Bernards

Marion Bernards - February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Dear Charlotte, We met only a few times, but we bonded almost instantly and we knew you were someone very special. We pray that your beautiful family will have comfort and peace.

Teresa and Craig Stover - February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ My mom and friend, I will enjoy passing on so many memories with your name attached to them as my girls become mom's and grandmas themselves. Laughing, loving, giving, blessing others as you did. I miss you, your adoring daughter, Becky

becky - February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss Sammy....I know the loneliness and sorrow you feel. God Bless you....

Juanita Andrew Bond - February 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Sam and family - Our thoughts and prayers are with you. This is so hard. I am grateful for each of you being there as family support for one another. Charlotte's "dash" has to be of comfort and inspiration to all of us. God gifted her with the gift of love and a tender heart. She shared those gifts with friends, everyone far and wide. I am grateful to have had Charlotte as my sister and friend. We are so blessed to have all the good memories she made possible.

Shirley Phillips Chapman - February 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Charolette. I did not know her well, but I know many of the people she touched throughout her life. May kindness and love live on in everyone she loved and cared for.

Jami Moss - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ MomZ, how could someone not miss the beauty of your soul? The amazing colors that always surrounded you, the song in your voice, we all knew you were an angel on earth. Now you have graduated and get the halo and wings that you so greatly deserve. We know when a breeze passes by, it is you flying by. You have always done so much for all so please continue and watch after us. We both also have been so blessed for you and Sam to have welcomed us into your family as son and daughter. Our love for you lives on, never to be forgotten.

Bekke and Andre Johnson - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Dear Sam and Family, When I think of Charlotte a smile immediately comes across my face. She was always full of so much joy and happiness. She radiated warmth and love and brought a smile to all those who were in her presence, not to mention just plain fun!!! My thoughts and heart are with you today and throughout the coming months and years as you celebrate her life and all the wonderful memories you have had with her. I imagine she is looking down on us all right now.....and smiling. Take care, Love Jeannie, Tim, Erin and Ethan

Jeannie (Parks) Kelly - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Rise, Shine and Give God The Glory, Glory!! Never in my life have I experienced the Love, Joy and Compassion that you sent me almost daily. Your picture is next to me as I sit at my computer and I look at you daily. I will always miss you and you will never be forgotten. From Your "Ever Lovin CS"

Marie Moely - February 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HK

“ We experienced 2 wonderful safaris with Sam and Charlotte in Africa. We became such good friends. Charlotte was so full of life and energy. She made any difficult situation a little brighter. We will miss you. From your friends in Africa. Hans and Marie de Klerk (and kids)

Hans de Klerk - February 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Remember all the Laughter, Smiles and Love that Chardie gave to all of us. We will remember all the fun we had together when you came to Florida and we went shopping in Tarpon Springs and had lunch with Georgie Porgie. Our wonderful cruise to Alaska and just being together. We saw this poem "She is Gone You can shed tears that she is gone Or you can smile because she has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back Or you can open your eyes and see all she has left Your heart can be empty because you can't see her Or you can be full of love you shared You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday You can remember her and only that she is gone Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back Or you can do what she would want: Smile, Open your eyes, Love, and go on" With Love to you Sam and all our family. Robin, Larry and Family

Larry & Robin Taylor, Sarah Fairbairn, Laura Bleacher - January 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SZ

“ My Honey Z, I sure miss you but I will never forget the calm and peaceful look on your face when I found you laying back on the bed. The angels had come and taken you to heaven while I was gone. It must have been great to see all your family and friends there to great you. I'll do my best to at least partly fill your shoes at all the programs and games the grand and great grandkids will be having. And at our family get-togethers you are now truly "Angel Charlotte". Thanks be to God for sharing you with me these 41 plus years and for all the love and happiness you gave to me and your family and friends. We were truly blessed. All my love until we are together again in eternity. Just like you always signed the hundreds of cards for so many events over the years: With Love Forever plus 1,000,000 days plus one, with love your Honey Z missing you, your Sam

Sam Zimmerly - January 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Mom, you were the colors in the rainbow everywhere you went. You taught me to laugh, to cry and to respect those around me. You gave me the gifts of acceptance and understanding. It is thanks to you that I know rich dark soil is awesome and hard work filled with laughter is a great way to spend a day. We were all so lucky to have you in our lives, we will remember you always. your adoring daughter, Debbie

Deborah Palmer - January 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ZZ

“ Gramma I am so happy that you have left me with all the wonderful memories from campouts in your backyard in tents, santas workshop at the church, sunday school doing crafts, the good fairy leaving treats under our pillows, giggling for hour after lights out in the cabin at church camp, falling asleep on your lap in church when I was little and waking up to you rubbing my forehead, singing "hes got the whole world in his hands" on the wa to church in the van, listening to your funny stories, ect, ect, on and on. You were a true to the heart loving grandma and anyone that crossed your path had a smile on there face walking away. You always found the good in any situation and were there to lend a shoulder or whatever was needed. You and grandpa were so in love and watching the two of you was a witness to everyone that true love does exist.. I will miss you so much grammy. The only thing that makes me have peace in your passing, is the fact that I know for 200% your with God and are at peace. We will all miss you so much grandma and we will all watch out for grandpa and make sure he will be okay. Im so glad I got to have you as my grandma and thank you for all the wonderful times and memories you left me with.. I love you and miss you grammy.. Zoey

Zoey Zimmerly - January 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ I will always have the memories of playing dress up at the house, walking to the bathrooms at reunion, glueing shells to drift wood at the beach, and singing "Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar" in the van on the way to church. You are a wonderful influence and a great inspiration. Thank you for sharing your life with me.

Courtney Langley - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM