



Elizabeth J. Nelson

February 8, 1931 - August 11, 2025

Elizabeth J. Nelson

“Betty”

She touched the lives of all who knew her and built a life centered on family, faith, and service to others.

Her legacy of love, generosity, and compassion will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate to know her.

Elizabeth “Betty” Nelson, 94, of Vancouver, WA, passed peacefully, surrounded by her family, on August 10, 2025. With grateful hearts, we honor her life. She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother and a beloved friend to many. She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Ben, and her parents and siblings. She is survived by her son, Bob Nelson (daughter-in-law, Carie), her daughter Jan Nelson-Winstead (son-in-law, Tim), her grandchildren, Robert Nelson, Christopher Winstead, Jon Nelson, Chase Winstead, Catherine Nelson, and Mason Winstead and

her five great grandchildren.

Betty Nelson was born and raised in Minnesota, the daughter of Gregor and Sophia

Useldinger. She was the third of six children, whose family owned a farm, she possessed an unwavering work ethic. Her mother shared a story how when Betty was

young, she had to drive the horse and cart to town for medicine and took care of her

whole family during a terrible sickness. Grandma Sophia always remarked that Betty

was the toughest of them all. She graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic School and

become a proud and devout Catholic.

In 1950 she was married to the love of her life, Ben, and came out west for their

honeymoon and loved it so much that they decided that this was their new home. They

love spending time with their large families. After ten years of marriage, they adopted

their son, Bob, while living in California, fulfilling the dream of becoming parents. They

knew they wanted another child, so around two years later after moving back to

Vancouver, WA, they adopted their daughter Jan. She dedicated her life to protecting

and caring for her family and provided a loving home. Betty learned to be an excellent

Scandinavian chef, renowned for her potato pancakes and Lefsa. Betty enjoyed various

activities throughout her life including card games, bowling, dancing, camping, traveling

and visiting the casinos, and was fierce competitor.

Betty was always welcoming to everyone and dedicated her life to caring for others.

After her kids were old enough, Betty worked as the Head Seamstress at Janzten

Knitting Mills, Vancouver, and then as an Evergreen Public Schools Bus Driver until she retired in 1992. Betty and Ben spent the next 22 years as snowbirds going to Arizona in the winters and other adventures. Her grandchildren were lucky to have had her for so long, celebrating all their milestones in their lives. For the last three years, Betty lived in an independent living community making so many friends, participating in all the activities and events giving her a vibrant life.

Betty was loved dearly and will be missed every day.

Previous Events

VIEWING

AUG 27. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Funeral Chapel
1101 NE 112th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98684-4950
<http://www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com>

Church Service

AUG 28. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
400 South Andresen Road Vancouver, WA US 98661
Vancouver, WA 98661

Graveside

AUG 28. 1:30 PM (PT)

Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Funeral Chapel
1101 NE 112th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98684-4950
<http://www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com>

In our Garden of Inspiration. We have maps of our gardens in our Chapel's Lobby.