



## Erma Mattfeld Kelley

June 14, 1922 - April 26, 2024

Erma Kelley often said she wouldn't be middle-aged until she turned 70 years old. She pushed a lawn mower until she was 85; baked pies and pulled weeds into her 90s. Erma didn't live to age 140, but she gave it a good run. Just shy of her 102nd birthday, Erma joined her high-school sweetheart and husband, Maurice, in everlasting life. Her son, Roger, is there, too, playing his guitar and learning the words to the many songs Erma knew by heart.

Erma says goodbye to two surviving children - Richard and Rebecca - plus five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Erma grew up in the Brush Prairie/Hockinson area, attending a one-room grade school. She was graduated from Battle Ground High School, where she was a cheerleader and a good-humored trouble maker.

Confirmed in the Elim Lutheran Church, Erma raised her family as members of the Battle Ground Community Church, now Battle Ground United Methodist. She and Maury were active in Elks, Rotary Club, and Chamber of Commerce, volunteering where needed. Erma was especially happy to help decorate Rose Parade floats and babysit for young couples during church service. Erma loved those babies. All babies.

In her younger years, Erma and the Kelley family were founding and active members of the Clark County Saddle Club. While Maury rode Pony Express or performed precision drills at a full gallop with the Clark County Sheriff's Posse, Erma held her own in the Women's Drill Team on the back of her

palomino named Goldie. A family friend who - as a child - saw her ride in a parade, wearing her pink satin cowboy shirt and waving to the crowd, thought she was a movie star.

Until her retirement, Erma was a fixture in the Clark County Dairymen Association (Ag-Co) office in Battle Ground. At work, her fingers flew across the rows of a 10-key adding machine while her eyes scanned co-op dividend reports: a human-powered computer. In her 'free time' she tended a vegetable garden and canned jar after jar of the seasonal harvest from the Kelley farm in the Charter Oak neighborhood.

Always quick to tease and be teased, Erma's life was well lived and full of love. She is alive in our hearts and in the House of the Lord.

PLEASE DO NOT POST THIS OBITUARY ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

# Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 05:35 PM

LW

“ I was a caregiver for Erma from 2017- 2021. She was an easy person to love! It was wonderful to spend time with her n she spent many hours talking about her life beginning in MN n growing up on the farm & many stories of her youth n her marriage & children, grandchildren & many people she considered family even though they weren't related. I was always fascinated to hear these wonderful stories. She was such a wise woman & she taught me so much! I will always remember Erma & the laughs we shared. My thoughts & prayers go to the family & friends of Erma at this difficult time.

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**Lea Wirtanen** - May 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Erma told me her secret to her famous Battleground potato salad. With our over the top friendships with their three grown children, she and Maury had no choice but to let us be part of the Kelley family.. not the Corn Eating Kelleys or the Singing Kelleys, but none the less, family. So many visits to their home, in the yard, at the pool and most of all around the kitchen table telling stories. Erma loved to give us the the inside scoop on the kids growing up and other sage advice. Another Battleground friend to all of us Kelleys was Mike Robison. He told me more than once that when he was a kid at the BG parade and saw Erma on her horse, that she looked like a movie star. I will hold that image of Erma in my heart along with the one of her and Maury laughing at the dinner table with all of us kids.

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**Diane and Joel Peters** - May 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Erma Mattfeld Kelley** - April 29, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Just a few of the many amazing memories I hold of sweet Erma. ❤️

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**Carley** - April 29, 2024 at 12:00 AM