



Helen Irene Walters

May 14, 1923 - April 27, 2010

Irene Walters passed away peacefully at home on April 27, 2010, at age 86. She was born on May 14, 1923 in Portland, Oregon to the artistic Helen Gertrude Backus. She had two brothers, of whom she was always proud--the ph.d. physicist, John, and brilliant inventor Walter Backus. Irene grew up in Portland and in 1938 married Lee C. Leslie, with whom she traveled to Philadelphia, Panama, California, and Alaska before returning to the Northwest. She had six children: Lee Jr., Jerry, Loneta, Paul, Jade, and Jeff. She spent most of her life as a homemaker, but worked "out" at times. During WWII, she worked in California shipyards. Later, she lived and worked in Hawaii, the place she loved best. In 1975 she married Edward Walters, with whom she spent the rest of her life. Irene was articulate, refined, an exceptional cook, skilled homemaker, and a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. As the family network, she kept us connected, tracking events with even her loved ones' friends and extended families. She loved to sing and dance, and her wry wit often caused raucous laughter. Irene is survived by her husband, Eddie Walters, sons Lee and Jerry Leslie, daughter Jade Ward, 15 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. The tragedy of her life was losing three of her children, Loneta, Paul, and Jeff Leslie, and one grandchild, Patrick Ivey. She is with them now and all are missed. Services will be held at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Vancouver, Washington at 3:00 p.m. on Monday May 3, 2010. Viewing available from noon on Friday until the service.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 08:20 PM

JF

“ Little Kincaid wishes he could have met his great grandma.

Jason Fiscus - May 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ My sympathies and condolences for all. I'm there in spirit with you all. Much love, Teresa

Teresa Ivey - May 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ I've known my friend Donna Sinclair for 10 years. I recall her sharing things about her family, including her grandmother, with me. I got the sense that Grandma was an awesome woman. I'm glad I've now learned more about her, though I wish it had been under happier circumstances. Cheers for a life well-lived, Helen.

Melissa Williams - May 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM