



Kate J. Fanning

June 19, 1927 - May 24, 2016

KATE J. FANNING June 19, 1927 ~ May 24, 2016 We are saddened to announce that Kate J. Fanning, born Elizabeth June Wilder, a resident of Manor Care Health Center in Vancouver, WA since Nov. 2015, passed away May 24, 2016 at 88 years old. Kate cared for her youngest daughter Shelli, born with Down Syndrome, for 48 years. She was an advocate for handicapped children for 40 years and had many accomplishments in this field. She was also an avid Bingo player, and loved to go to the beach to watch the waves. Kate will be deeply missed by her 5 children, Rodger L. Stricklin (Delane), L. Kay Rubens (Joe), Craig N. Fanning (Jeannie), Pamela S. Church-Pryor (Terry) and Rachelle "Shelli" M. Fanning; grandchildren, Charmayne D. Ash (Darren), DeAnn Urmson (Ed Lewis), Katelyn N. Church, Stephen Dennis, John A. Stricklin; numerous other grandchildren; great-grandchildren, Jessica V. Ash and Taryn Gomez; numerous other great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. She was very dear friends with Marilyn Reynolds, Bonnie Phillips, and many others from Salmon Creek Bingo and 40 Et 8 Bingo. Please sign her guest book at: www.columbian.com/obits.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 09:16 PM



“ I am so thankful that I was able to spend precious time with you so soon before you left us. I was lucky to have you as my grandmother. I always enjoyed spending time with you. I know how much you loved me to. I cherish the days when I was younger and you taught me to crochet, when you would call and let Shelli tease me about how it was her birthday and she was now 20 days older than me, when you would sparkle when you talked about Shelli and handicapped children and how you were fighting another battle for them. I loved the days of sitting at the kitchen table in Everett and papa fell asleep and we sat and threw popcorn at him and giggled. Grandma there never would of been enough time for me, but I am so thankful for every moment I had with you and I will always have you in my heart. I love you now and forever!

Charmayne Ash - June 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ My beautiful Aunt Kate. As I grew up calling her. She will always hold a very very special place in my heart. The unconditional love that she showed my sister and I while we were growing up...will always stay in my heart. What a beautiful soul. I am sure that she is home with her savior, and will always be an Angel...that's watching over all those that she loved,. And those that loved her. I can't say enough about this fine lady..Until we see one another again ..I love you... xxxLeeannxxx

Leeann Kestle-Lee - June 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I always looked forward to my Tuesday Meals on Wheels Visits with Kate.

Shwe was an inspiration. I am sure she is enjoying her reconnecting with family in friends in heaven. And will keep special watch over each of us.

Marilee

Marilee Murphy - May 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ I met Kate about 25 years ago. I had the honor of placing Shelli in her job at the Red Lion. When I met Kate she said the workshop she was in said Shelli will never work. Kate knew that she would prove them wrong. Shelli was hired in 5 days and retired after 23 years. Kate fought for people with developmental disabilities since Shelli was born. She never took no as an answer. She continued to be a light in the mission of helping individuals with developmental disabilities to reach there potential.

God Bless you my friend my taught me well.

Norman Goldman - May 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Grandma Kate as my wife (Bonnie Huckaby) called her was a good friend. Her and Bonnie loved to go to bingo. I fixed her computer when it was working right. All that knew her will miss her and I know she is playing bingo in a better place.

Ken Huckaby - May 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a special light that shown from her. She is not missed, because she is right here with us. Her legacy lives on in her family and the lives she touched!-Nurse at Manor Care*

May 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM