



Reha Parthene Seekins

July 19, 1922 - January 3, 2024

It is with heavy hearts, and a glorious hope, that we share the passing of Reha Parthene Seekins, 101 1/2 years old, of Proebstel, WA. On the morning of January 3, 2024, she departed this world peacefully in her home with loved ones at her side. Reha was born in Smith Center, Kansas, on July 19, 1922, and moved to Portland, OR when she was 12, attending Girls Polytechnic throughout her high school years. On August 6, 1939, just newly 17, she met the love of her life, Claire George Seekins, at the Jantzen Beach Amusement Park. They married in March of 1940 after a seven-month courtship and engagement and spent their first ten years in Portland and then Washougal, working and raising their four boys. 1950 found them moving their family to a farm in Proebstel, WA, having their fifth child - and only daughter - and later opening and operating Seekins Dairy. Together Claire and Reha remained a cornerstone of the Seekins clan in Washington through their 65th wedding anniversary and, shortly after, the passing of Claire in August, 2005. Reha's life was marked by her strong sense of loyalty and love toward her family and her determination to selflessly serve those in her community from the local high school to her neighborhood church. After a few short years working at Crown Zellerbach Paper Mill in Camas and the cannery in Vancouver, Reha's service to the community began at the Evergreen School District as a cafeteria lunch lady. She was a fan and enforcer of proper behavior and promptly "handled" any misbehaving students in her lunch line. She started a culinary arts class at Evergreen High School and, in

developing the program, her classroom became a restaurant, "VICA Vittles", where students would prepare and serve food to the school's administrators and staff. The Culinary Arts program moved from EHS to the Skills Center which originally hosted training in only a few vocations to students at Evergreen High School. This program has since been renamed to Cascadia Tech Academy and now partners with all schools in Clark County and provides training in many different vocations. Students who thought they were taking a class for an easy high school credit got a lot more than just culinary arts skills. Reha played the role of mentor, life-teacher, and stand-in mother for many during her years, encouraging and supporting her students. Reha also volunteered many of her hours sewing and teaching outside of the school district. She taught Sunday School, sewed dance costumes and cheer uniforms, and enjoyed her time helping with 4-H. As she developed her own hobbies of knitting, spinning, loom-weaving, felting, and lace-making, Reha devoted much of her time to the spinners' and knitters' guilds serving in leadership roles including being president. She loved to learn, teach, and share her arts with others. Her biggest love and greatest skill set, however, involved food. She was always making something for others in addition to her own family. Her son, Roger, often brought high school teammates home for dinner unannounced. She would always find a way to double the pot of spaghetti or soup or tuna casserole and everyone ate together without being any the wiser. In between her careers and hobbies, Reha attended countless athletic events for her five children and eight grandchildren. In her later years she also attended many of her great grandchildren's events as well as followed some of their college football games on TV. Reha had a remarkable sense of what is good and proper. This was notable in her food preparation and party-hosting as her dinner parties boasted all of the accouterments. She also had an impeccable sense of fashion - new clothing, matching purses and shoes, and fresh lipstick - even up until her final days. She was handy in finding cures for any childhood ailment from a sore throat to a broken heart, and, despite the hardships in her own life,

displayed incredible wisdom. She knew that someone somewhere always had it worse than she did; no one ever saw her shed a tear. She always knew that there was much to be thankful for. Reha's contribution to the Kaiser Shipyard is commemorated in a sculpture on the Waterfront Renaissance Trail in Vancouver. You can find her name, along with the names of other contributors, engraved in the sculpture titled, "Wendy Rose", which celebrates the spirit and legacy of women in the WWII era. Reha was preceded in death by her husband Claire Seekins and their four sons Jim, Gary, Roger, and Harold. She is survived by her daughter, Jerilue Seekins Hopley (Mike), grandchildren Heidi Burkett (Rob), Megan Schutt (Russ); grandchildren of deceased sons, Kelly Bratcher, Corey Seekins (Kamie), Ryan Seekins (Michelle), Sundee Racanelli (Josh), Sid Seekins (Marta), Derek Seekins (Kari), 23 fabulous great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren, a host of beloved nieces and nephews, daughters-in-law, extended family and friends who will forever carry her memory with them. Reha is now surrounded by nearly as many loved ones in heaven as she was surrounded by here. A celebration of Reha's life will be held on Sunday, March 24th, 12:30pm at Evergreen Memorial Gardens followed by a reception at Proebstel Evangelical Free Church at 3pm. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Meals on Wheels in honor of Reha and her faithful contributions over the years. Her family greatly appreciates the warm and caring assistance of Landmark, Hospice, and our loving caregivers.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 05:18 PM

KS

“ I am so sad to find out this news today, after Reha moved I didn't have much contact with her but thought of her and her amazing family often. What a legacy she and her husband created! My heart goes out to the family of this incredible lady 💕

I had the pleasure of meeting Reha after my dear friend Gina Wheelon passed away. Gina had been helping Reha with her little dog Pepper for many years and Reha needed someone to watch Pepper, she found me through Gina's family. The very first time I met her she must have told me over a dozen amazing stories of her life and family. What was supposed to be a 10 min discussion of care for Pepper turned into several hours 🥲

What a precious woman full of life for her 90's and so clear of mind. She always tried to get me to eat something when I was picking up or dropping off Pepper. I will always cherish the brief friendship we had, she made an everlasting mark on my heart 💕

Kari Smith-Schlecht - October 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ Reha was a colleague at Evergreen High School during the 1980's. She liked kids. She enjoyed sharing her love of "things culinary" with them and with the staff. Lunches were offered to staff in Reha's "kitchen". She supervised the student preparation of the home cooked meals, a treat not often found in schools. Reha exuded a positive feeling in the building. I will always remember her as a dedicated educator who positively influenced students and fellow staff members.

Terry Nelson - March 18, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Such a beautiful person who was one of the most selfless persons I have ever known! Her daughter and granddaughters attest to a beautiful life, well- lived!

Kerri Galagan - January 19, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Reha known to the Crosby family as Parthene was very special to all of us. She and our Mother were best friends. She was very instrumental in teaching us how to cook. We loved her dearly. God's Blessings on all of you her family. You were blessed to have her so long. Our prayers are with you. Diane Crosby Delany



Diane Delany - January 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SK

*“ A life well lived. What a joy and honor to care for Reha. She was simply the best. We laughed together a lot as she shared her endless stories from days gone by. It was obvious to me that family was THE most important thing. She always seemed to know what each and every one of her family members were up to. And if she didn't know, she would make it her mission to find out! How lucky the Seekins family is to have had this wonderful woman to call Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma, Aunt, and Friend
I'm sure going to miss her!*



Susan Koch - January 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CS

*“ When I lived in Vancouver went to school with the family. Lived near in Probstel. Sorry to hear the new.s
I really enjoyed the family. Bless her for the work she did through the years.*

Carol Stewart - January 14, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AS

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

A Memorial Tree was planted for Reha Parthene Seekins - January 13, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *Abundant memories ~ My hope is to do what my mamma often told me; cherish the memories, and never stop making them. Surround yourself with family and friends. Those are the best gifts you can give to yourself and others.*

I am FOREVER GRATEFUL 🤗

Jerilue - January 13, 2024 at 12:00 AM