



## Barbara Jane (Cook) Heath

July 19, 1928 - March 13, 2015

Barbara J. Heath, 86, passed away Friday, March 13, 2015, in Bend, Oregon. She had family by her side as her struggle with dementia and lung disease ended. Barbara was born in Chilliwack, BC, Canada, to Harold and Nellie Cook. At age 9, her family moved to Portland, OR, where she grew up in a neighborhood with close friends and family. Her future husband lived down the street. She married Eugene P. Heath, Jr. (Gene), August 9, 1945. Gene's career with Fish & Wildlife led them to Ruby Lake, NV, Malheur Refuge, Burns, OR, Lakeview, OR, and Kenai, AK. They moved to Bend in 1985. After Gene's death, Barbara returned to Kenai in July, 1998, to live with her daughter. Declining health and daughter's retirement brought her back to Bend in 2013, to be closer to family. Barbara spent her earlier years raising 6 children and learning how to succeed as a city girl living in remote areas and small towns. While in Alaska, she worked in the local hospital's kitchen. She enjoyed the 11 years in Alaska with Gene and the many friendships made there. She was very active in TOPS and the Kenai Senior Center. Barbara enjoyed crafts, dancing, bell ringing, music, plays, and flowers. She was a voracious reader. She enjoyed trips to Hawaii, Mexico, a Caribbean cruise, and family gatherings in Las Vegas, Florida, Alaska and Oregon. Her family was very important to her, and she loved them all. She will be missed immensely and never forgotten. Barbara is survived by her sons Michael (Cathy), North Carolina; David, Plush, OR; Leilan, Lakeview, OR; Douglas (Barb), West Virginia; Richard, Kenai, AK; and her daughter Cheryl Samples,

Bend, OR. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, Andrew, Cassandra, Dwayne, Dan, Marshall, Michael, Wayne, and Casey Heath; Scott, Stephen, and Stephanie Samples; Karma Carey; 16 great-grandchildren; sisters Nellie Henderson, Dorothy Cook, and brother George (Ray) Cook; sisters-in-law Peggy Denfeld, Margy Hunter, and Norma Cole. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Gene Heath, grandson Drew Heath, son-in-law Norman Samples, parents Harold and Nellie Cook. A memorial gathering of family will take place in June.

Funeral Home:

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home New

105 NW Irving Ave

Bend, OR

US 97701

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ Our sympathies to all the family. I would often see Barbara at the Kenai Senior Center. She would always have a smile when I said hi and tell her I was a friend of Cheryl's. May you have fond memories of your life with her. Cliff and I are thinking of you.

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**Kathy Heus** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ I was saddened to learn of Barbs passing. I met her at TOPs club many years ago and liked her right off. She had a sweet disposition and a very quick wit, sometimes quite comical. Cheryl and family, I am thinking of you and wishing peace in knowing that you made her end years pleasant and safe. Dick and I are thinking of you.

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**Susan Pike** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ First I am truly sorry for your loss. I didnt know Barbara well but many years ago Gene was a patient of mine. He was a delight. I recall him playing his small accordion. Im sure heaven is much sweeter with Barbara there.

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**Connie Callahan** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM