



Ellen Marie Burgess

January 18, 1934 - March 19, 2023

Ella Burgess peacefully passed away March 19th, 2023 in Bend, Oregon.

Ella was born in Panama, Iowa in 1934, the second girl in the family of Helen and Joseph Rosenthal. Ella grew up with her five brothers: Roland, Joe, Al, Jim and Dan, and her two sisters Felice and Joyce. Ella was the sixth child of eight and enjoyed the role of being big sister to Dan and Joyce. She spent her childhood in Portsmouth, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from Holy Name Catholic High School in 1951 where she enjoyed and excelled in choir and musical theater. After graduating Ella spent time exploring different Midwest cities with her girlfriends and tried out a variety of careers: switchboard operator, X-ray technician, accounting clerk and sales clerk. Eventually settling in Los Angeles, she met Matt Skulich at a Catholic Youth Organization dance. They married in 1958 and had three children: Nick, Jeanne and Cindy. Matt passed away in 1961 in a tragic car accident five months before the birth of Cindy.

The family moved to Bend in 1964. She later met Otis Burgess at a square dance and unbeknownst to her when Otis first met her he thought 'I'm going to marry her!' They married in 1966, joining her family with Otis and his two boys, Terry and Tony. Later that year Ella gave birth to twin boys, David and Daniel.

After the twins started grade school Ella was hired as the librarian for St. Francis Elementary School. Her favorite thing about her time at St. Francis was getting to know the students and making reading recommendations to match their skills and interest. After her librarian years she worked for St. Vincent DePaul as the food pantry manager and volunteer coordinator where she remained until her retirement.

Ella enjoyed spending time with family and hosting holiday get-togethers. She loved to travel the West with Otis, seeing national parks and historic towns, and going on road trips to visit her siblings and their families in Lemoore and Southern California.. Ella was an avid antiquer, loved going to yard sales and running her antique booth. Her specialty was anything she could buy low and sell high!

She is survived by her 4 children and their spouses: Nick Skulich, Jeanne Smoldt (Don), son-in-law, Jake Egli, Daniel Burgess (Jerry) and David Burgess (Louise), and two step-children Terry Burgess (Merrilene) and Tony Burgess. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren: Lacy Weeks (Scott), Angie Burgess, Randy Burgess, Don Smoldt, Andrew Egli, Katie Crawford (Will), Mallory Smoldt, Matt Egli, Emily and Abbey Burgess and 2 great-grandchildren: Ella and Cameron Crawford. She is preceded in death by her husband, Otis Burgess, daughter, Cindy Egli and grandson Christopher Smoldt.

She had a profound love for family, a beautiful smile and she will be deeply missed.

Funeral Mass

Tuesday, March 28th at 10:00 am

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (New Church)

2450 NE 27th St.

Bend, Oregon 97701

Live stream: <https://www.stfrancisbend.org/>

Contributions in memorial can be made to:

St Vincent De Paul, Bend - <https://stvincentdepaulbend.org/donate-3>

Tribute Wall



“ 7 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *New Album*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 03:18 PM

MR

“ I have many great memories of Aunt Ella and Uncle Otis. Here were are pictured together in March of 2015 and then again about a year and a half later. One of the things that I will always remember about her is that she always listened and took an interest in others. She was always very sweet, kind, approachable, and had a thirst for knowledge. I admired that about her. Even though I didn't live nearby and my visits weren't too frequent, I looked forward to her company each time I did visit.

Michelle Rusich - March 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Sent with love, remembrance, and my warmest condolences,

Michelle Rusich - March 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EK

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God grant Ella eternal peace. Much love,

Eileen and Pete, Ginger and Luis, Allison and Greg and kids - March 27, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NE

“ Wishing we could be with you all to celebrate the life of Aunt Ella. We will always remember her and the fun visits to Oregon. Big Hugs!

Nancy Rosenthal, Lynne, Holly, Alan & Nicholas Esther - March 27, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ With loving memories of "Ella",

Anne Huddleston - March 27, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Sent with love and remembrance of wonderful Aunt Ella.

Anonymous - March 26, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Nick, Jeanne, David, Danny and all the family, our deepest sympathies go out to you. Aunt Ella was a treasure! Love, Jeff & Karen Gilcrease

Anonymous - March 26, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ We are thinking of you.

The Haldeman's - March 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ St. Vincent DePaul will be collecting food pantry donations at the funeral.

Nick Skulich - March 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Peace, prayers, blessings and love...

Brigitte McBride - March 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ We are so sorry for your loss.

Terry and Merrilene Burgess and Scott and Lacey weeks - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *Ella was very nice to myself and my family. I will miss her and Otis and think of both fondly. They are in heaven square dancing together again!* ”

Jenni Kirn - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Ella saying hello to Ella!* ”

David Burgess - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Mom's 89th Birthday Party!* ”

David Burgess - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *50th Wedding Anniversary Mass at St Francis* ”

David Burgess - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *Nick, Jeannie, David, and Danny. Sorry for your loss our prayers and thoughts are with you* ”

TONY & Sherril Burgess - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *May God watch over your family during your time of need. Peace & Blessings upon your family.* ”

John & Denise Brunner - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ I was the luckiest baby to have Aunt Ella as my godmother. As an aging man I still think she looks after me. I am so glad Aunt Ella and my mom were such good friends! I think she knew how much I loved her but I feel the need to say it again now. I love you, God bless and see you in heaven.
Nick, Jeannie, David and Danny, love you guys! Your mom is a very special person! I'm so sorry for how much this hurts.
David R.

David E Rosenthal - March 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home

A Memorial Tree was planted for Ella - March 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Ellen Marie Burgess

Bend Funeral Homes - March 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Ellen Marie Burgess

David Burgess - March 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Petterson's Rock Garden with Grandma and Grandpa!

David Burgess - March 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM