



## Patty Pauline Russell

May 15, 1918 - April 19, 2021

Patty Russell went to be with our Lord on April 19, 2021 in Bend, Oregon. She was born in Cotton City (now Eloy), Arizona during the Spanish Flu epidemic and died in Bend during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her parents, Otis and Jessie Jordan, were cotton farmers from Erath County, Texas, who moved to Cotton City in 1916, four years after Arizona became a State. Her dad cleared the land and planted cotton on what was desert land that had never been cultivated. Plowing was done with horses, and rattlesnakes were plentiful. Cotton prices were high during World War I, but they dropped to only 10 cents a pound when the war ended. Her family, including her older sister, Edna, left Cotton City and homesteaded west of Casa Grande, Arizona, with the intention of planting cotton. However, there was no water in Casa Grande at that time and, after proving up on the homestead, the family moved to Glendale, Arizona, where they could get water from the Salt River to grow cotton.

Patty graduated from Glendale High School in 1936 and attended the University of Arizona for a year, where she played on the all-star girls' softball team. Afterward she attended business school and went to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Phoenix before and during World War II. She married her hometown sweetheart, Arthur Halbrooks in 1942. He joined the Army Air Corps that year and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He

became a bombardier on the B-17F Flying Fortress and was assigned to the mighty 8th Air Force, based at RAF Chelveston, England. The unit began bombing German targets in November 1942. On January 13, 1943, his aircraft was shot down by German antiaircraft fire over the railroad yards at Lille, France. The bomber, one of a strike force of 72, crashed in Pollinkhove, Belgium, killing all 10 crew members. Patty and Art had been married less than five months.

Patty continued to work for the FBI, where she was awarded the Certificate of Honorable War Service by J. Edgar Hoover. Meanwhile, her parents moved back to the homestead in Casa Grande after the war, when decommissioned submarine engines allowed the farmers to drill wells and pump water to their cotton fields.

Patty met her second husband, Harlan (Russ) Russell during the war, but she would not remarry until Art's death was confirmed and the war was over. They were finally married in September 1946. Russ had farming experience, and cotton farming was in his blood. When Patty's father died in 1948, Patty and Russ moved to Casa Grande, where Russ became a full-time farmer. He experimented with water-witching rods and, with them, drilled a second successful well, which provided much needed irrigation for the cotton fields. The water-witching rods are still in the family.

Patty and Russ raised three daughters and participated in all the rich social life that small-town Casa Grande offered. Patty was a member of the Cotton Wives, the Oasis Garden Club, the Eastern Star and the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society. When the community built Hoemako Hospital in 1952, Patty became an auxiliary member. Russ died in 1984 doing what he loved, raising cotton. They had been married for 37 happy years.

Patty lived a long and fulfilling life. Beloved by her family and a wide circle of

friends, she was known for her kindness, generosity and great sense of humor. She celebrated her 100th birthday on May 15, 2018, at Touchmark retirement community in Bend, Oregon, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and extended family. She is survived by her three daughters and their husbands: Susan and Art Gilbreth of Sunriver, Oregon; Barbara and Jim Linam of Tucson, Arizona; and Carol and Tom Donohoe of Bend, Oregon. Also by five grandchildren: Josh Linam and his wife, Hattie, of Tucson, Arizona; Russ Linam of San Diego, California; and Natalia, Amanda and Claire Donohoe all of Bend. Patty had one great-grandchild, two year-old Jonas Linam, of Tucson, Arizona. She is also survived by a niece, Joan Malouf and her husband Rick of Scottsdale, Arizona, and their daughter Amy and her husband Danny of Scottsdale.

Patty will be buried beside Russ at Greenwood Cemetery in Phoenix. The family wishes to express its appreciation for the many kind condolences and for the kindness shown by caregivers at Mount Bachelor Assisted Living Facility and Heart and Home Hospice of Bend.

Arrangements are entrusted to Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home of Bend, Oregon.

# Tribute Wall



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**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 02:57 PM

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“ *Patty Pauline Russell*

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**Bend Funeral Homes** - April 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM