



## Bonnie Marie Becknell

November 15, 1929 - August 24, 2021

Bonnie Marie Woods Becknell – 1929-2021

Bonnie Marie Becknell passed away at the age of 91 in Richland, Washington after suffering from a hip injury, surgery, and recovery complications. Bonnie's ancestors have been traced to the Easley family who were early settlers dating back at least ten generations and from a group of settlers crossing the ocean on the Mayflower. It is recorded that many of their ancestors endured hardships during the Civil War. She was married to John Dee Becknell Senior, her high school sweetheart. After the birth of their second child, Alice, John made a commitment to attend Seminary School and devote his life to serving God. This path changed their lives forever with a legacy of 67 years of sharing God's faith and love and helping people renew their lives. While living in Laredo, Texas she became a Coordinator/Director for the Texas Association of Retarded Children (TARS), which is still in existence. John Junior was disabled mentally and physically, and she was motivated in helping children have productive and better lives. She, of course, included her three girls in this service who became qualified Lifeguards and were then able to teach disabled children to love the water and, in many cases, become, swimmers. Many other activities were planned throughout the years such as dances and other events. In addition, with the help of her husband, a small store front was established with a workroom in the back where disabled adults could work supported by local small businesses that needed mail processing and sorting assistance. As a mother of four children, she regularly read aloud stories such

as: Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm and Little Britches. She had this unique way of imitating the farm animals that certainly made us laugh and smile. Her father instilled a love for reading literature, and she loved reading and sharing poetry. Her husband became bilingual as a missionary in Mexico, and she also learned Spanish and insisted that her children also be proficient in English and Spanish. As a minister's wife she often was involved in Sunday School teaching bible studies for young adults and organizing annual Vacation Bible School with her eldest daughter. She is survived by her loving family: three daughters, Alice Lynette Doncaster, Deborah Jene Beauchamp, Cheryl Lea Becknell Patterson, eight grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren. She will now be able to join her loving husband and two sons: John Dee Becknell Junior who recently passed away May 16, 2020, of heart complications and Jimmy Dale Becknell (December 8, 1958) in heaven. A memorial service will be held October 2nd at 3pm for John and Bonnie Becknell at Bethel church in Richland, Washington.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 2. 3:00 PM (PT)

Bethel Church  
600 Shockley Rd  
Richland, WA 99352

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Mom's journey has just begun, but she is not in it alone. Dad and her boys along for the adventure.*  
*Love Deborah*

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**Deborah Beauchamp** - September 09, 2021 at 06:44 PM