



## Norma June Higley

June 2, 1925 - September 12, 2013

Norma June Higley, 88, long time Warden resident, passed away Thursday, September 12, 2013 at her home in Warden. Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 20, 2013 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Warden with Bishop Curtis Cole conducting. Vault interment will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens. Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel, Moses Lake. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com) The family will greet friends at the funeral home on Thursday evening, Sept. 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and at the church on Friday morning, Sept. 20th from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

June was born June 2, 1925 in Lincoln, Nebraska to Henry Edward Butler and Muriel Emma Wills. At the tender age of two weeks, her 31 year old mother died due to complications of child birth, and she was taken to Hebron, Nebraska to be with her Grandmother and Grandfather Wills on the family farm. Her cousin LeRoy Wills had also lost his mother at childbirth, and he came to Grandma and Grandpa Wills as well. June and LeRoy were raised together till the age of 10.

June was a good student, and enjoyed many school activities, playing oboe and clarinet in the high school concert band, and was the drum majorette for the marching band. She won an award for perfect attendance in high school. She graduated in 1943 with a 94.5 grade average and many wonderful memories.

After she graduated, her and Grandma Wills moved to Phoenix AZ, where she

attended business school. From there they moved to Gresham, Oregon where she worked at the Jantzen Knitting Mill. As the country moved into World War II, she became one of many young women who aided the war effort by working in the ship yards. She was a “Rosie the Riveter” who welded and used a cutting torch to cut steel for ship parts.

After the war she boarded a bus for Utah to join a high school friend, who got her a job at Deseret Chemical Depot, working in the office. It was there that she met a handsome man by the name of Miles Higley, who had recently returned from the war.

Miles and June quickly felt they were meant for each other, and they married November 26, 1946, in Tooele, Utah at Miles’ family home. They were later sealed in the Salt Lake City Utah Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In 1955, they left a thriving gas station partnership near the mouth of Parley’s Canyon, and moved to the Great Columbia Basin in Washington State.

Through the GI Bill, Miles drew a farm unit near Warden, Washington where they settled as part of a large development movement sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation under the Homestead Act.

They worked hard at developing their farm, with June working right alongside Miles as they struggled through dust storms, sink holes, and building a home for their family that now included three children. June was a creative and diligent homemaker. She also worked at Columbia Industries Potato Plant in the laboratory for 10 years, beginning in 1968.

She worked hard at developing skills necessary to endure the rigors of an unfamiliar farm life. She loved to sew and created beautiful clothing for her children and grandchildren. She loved gardening, cooking, and genealogy. June’s family has been her first love and priority, and has grown to 9 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren knew that when they entered her home, they were greeted with hugs, treats, stories, and fun. When June attended a birthday gathering for a grandchild, she brought gifts for all the children in attendance.

She was a devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and enjoyed serving in many callings throughout the years. She especially loved to teach, and was enthusiastic and dedicated in every calling she held. June was preceded in death by her beloved husband Miles, her brother Dail Wills, and her parents. She is survived by her children Blake and Carey (Gies) Higley, of Othello, Joette and LaMar Winder of Moses Lake, and Jill and John Robertson of Warden.

June was an enthusiastic and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and friend. We will miss her peaceful, loving smile, and serene spirit.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **19.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories  
831 S. Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA

## Visitation

SEP **20.** 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Warden Chapel  
1017 S. County Rd.  
Warden, WA

## Service

SEP **20.** 10:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Warden Chapel  
1017 S. County Rd.  
Warden, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ My dear Joette, I want to let you know I am deeply saddened at your mother's passing. When our mother's (father'a) die it is such a life affecting event. I remember your mother with fondness and send my love to you & your at this time of loss and remembering. Love,  
Vicki Ehlert Mason###imported-begin###Vicki Ehlert  
Mason###imported-end###

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September 28, 2013 at 04:06 PM



“ Joette and Lemar,so sorry to hear of your loss of your mother.###imported-begin###Tim and Dawnita Koon-Chicago  
IL###imported-end###

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September 18, 2013 at 09:46 PM



“ Blake, Joette and Jill my thoughts, prayers and love are with you. Your Mother was always so kind and caring to me. I remember as a child she gave me baton lessons and let me tend Kristee and Blake, who were both so cute. We always enjoyed the visits when your Mother and Dad would come down to Utah. Even the last few years, your Mother sent me cards with special messages that I have kept. Even though we can't be there on Friday, our thoughts will be with you and your sweet Mother. Take care, Judy###imported-begin###Judith Worthington###imported-end###

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September 16, 2013 at 04:32 PM



“ *My earliest memories of aunt June were in Holladay, Utah and her making donuts, probably between 3 and 4 years old for me. I always had fond memories of the visits to Washington to see uncle bud and aunt June and fish on the other side of Jackass Mountain. To my cousins, you had tremendous parents who love you more than anything. May their examples in life serve as a guide for the rest of yours.*

*Your cousin Glen##imported-begin##Glen Worthington##imported-end##*

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September 14, 2013 at 10:59 PM