



Vera Clem

May 29, 1922 - August 17, 2015

On August 17, 2015, Vera A. Clem announced she was “going home” and peacefully went home to join our Lord in heaven and her husband, Frank, who passed away on May 28, 2015.

Vera was born May 29, 1922, to Charles and Augusta (Krueger) Guggenbickler in Frances, Washington, at the homestead. When she was 11 years old, she moved with her family to Enumclaw, Washington, in April 1934, where her parents farmed. When she was ready to begin high school, the family moved into town. She was quite athletic and while attending high school, she lettered in tennis three consecutive years. Upon graduation in 1940, she worked in Murray’s drug store. It was here where she met her future husband of 73 years, Frank L. Clem, Jr. He had recently moved to the area with his parents and sisters. He and his Dad were working nearby on Mud Mountain Dam.

Frank and Vera were married in Enumclaw’s Sacred Heart Catholic Church on October 25, 1941. They made their home in Bellevue, Washington, where he was employed as a welder in the Kirkland shipyards helping to build ships and training new welding recruits for the WWII effort. After the war, they moved back to Enumclaw where they raised four children. Frank worked at Weyerhaeuser’s White River mill as a combination welder until he retired.

Vera kept very busy raising children, being active in church activities, and later taking care of her elderly parents. She belonged to the Holy Family Ladies' Guild, St. Catherine's Circle, taught Catechism, was a Eucharistic minister, and participated in the annual church dinners.

In 1987, a few years after Dad's retirement, they moved to Moses Lake where their daughter and son-in-law live. They became members of our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. They adapted quickly to the area enjoying new friends met at church, Broadway Estates, the Senior Center, and through playing bridge. Eventually, their son, Jess, moved to Moses Lake. Frank and Vera especially enjoyed spending time with all of their children and grandchildren.

Vera stated that her husband and children were her greatest joy. Many times she shared with her daughters that she loved being a housewife and mother. This was no secret by her actions and involvement. Her love was felt every day. Mom taught us to look for the best in people and to always do our best no matter how big or small the task. She often reminded us that we could achieve whatever we put our mind to and to have faith that God would always guide us. When asked what she wanted her family to remember her for, she said, "for loving and caring for them equally."

Mom's hobbies included embroidery work, calligraphy, ceramics, sewing, gardening, and raising beautiful dahlias. Playing cards with family and friends may have been at the top of her list. She was an excellent bridge player. Baseball was also a big interest of hers. Nothing gave her more pleasure than to watch and follow her sons, Jim and Jess, and later her grandsons, Zachary and Jacob Clem, play through their youth league, high school, college, and professional years. During her lifetime, she was always a big fan of the University of Washington athletic teams so having two grandsons that played baseball for the Huskies was especially exciting for her.

Vera is survived by her daughters Carole (Tim) Sfondouris of Greece, Patricia (Dwight) Teitzel of Moses Lake, and her sons Jim (Annette) Clem of Burlington, and Jess Clem of Moses Lake; grandchildren—George (Rena), Angela, and Frank Sfondouris and Zachary and Jacob Clem as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Augusta Guggenbickler and her three brothers Carl, Art, and Bob.

Services will be held at our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church on Friday, August 28. The Rosary will begin at 1 p.m. followed by the Funeral Service at 1:30 p.m. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at www.kayserchapel.com Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

The family wishes to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to the family at Crystal Springs for the love and care they gave Mom.

Cemetery Details

Our Lady of Fatima Columbarium

200 N Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Service

AUG 28. 1:00 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Holy Rosary)
200 North Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Service

AUG 28. 1:30 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Mass of Christian Burial)
200 N. Dale Rd
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

KC

“ Aunt Vera was a kind and gentle soul. Her legacy (&Uncle Frank's) is her children and grandchildren....all accomplished in their own right. Some of my best childhood memories includes visits to Enumclaw to visit my cousins, often taking a train with our Grandmother. Even as a young child, I was impressed by their perfect yard and lovely flowers. Aunt Vera was an amazing cook, too. During our visits, I was spiritually moved by the importance of their religion in everyday life...their guiding light and focus always. Later in life, my husband, Ardis, and I visited them in Moses Lake for lively discussions about world affairs, politics and sports. Fortunately, we agreed about politics 99.9% of the time. Aunt Vera would come alive when discussing her favorite sport, baseball. She knew all the players, teams, statistics, etc. She spoiled us every visit.... by baking pies and providing coffee....best pie crust in the world. One of my treasured gifts from her is her recipe for layered chopped salad. Another impressive accomplishment.... riding her bike into her 80's. She was special to all who knew her. Love, Kathy, niece

Kathy Cross - August 27, 2015 at 06:19 PM

JC

Dear Kathy... You and Ardis brought much joy to Mom and Dad! Kathy, I hope you know how much they/we care about you. Thank you for sharing some of your memories! So fun to read them! Even though much time has passed, the good-times we shared always make me/us smile. :) God bless you and Ardis for your kindness. Let's stay in touch. Much love from all the family of Frank and Vera. ❤️

jim clem - August 27, 2015 at 11:19 PM

CS

Kathy this is a lovely tribute, thank-you so much. Your visits were so much fun...I remember lots of laughter and love and the talks with you. And Ardis saying what a loving family we all were. You always brought joy with you! Love, Carole

carole clem sfondouris - August 28, 2015 at 02:00 AM

PT

Thank you, Kathy, for your loving thoughts. We always looked forward to seeing you. The Clem, Cross, and Scharwat reunions were a blast. I shall always remember how Dad talked about Uncle Jess. They seemed to be closer than brothers.

It was wonderful to see you and Ardis at Mom's funeral. I sincerely hope that we will be seeing each other in the future. Let's keep in touch. Love, Pat

Pat Teitzel - September 06, 2015 at 06:44 AM

JF

“ Mary Jane a lifelong friend and schoolmate of Vera’s was sadden to hear of her passing. She as well as the Fallen family, Jerry and Susan give there condolence to the Clem family.

Jerry Fallen - August 27, 2015 at 07:43 AM

JC

Thank you for your kind message. Mom so loved Mary Jane! Jerry, you made Dad laugh and he enjoyed the years he worked with you! Thanks to Susan too! From our family to yours, "thank you!"

jim clem - August 27, 2015 at 11:09 PM

CS

Thank-you Jerry and Susan...Mom often talked of your Mom lovingly :)...Carole Clem Sfondouris

carole clem sfondouris - August 28, 2015 at 02:03 AM

CS

“ *Carole Clem Sfondouris lit a candle in memory of Vera Clem*



Carole Clem Sfondouris - August 26, 2015 at 08:30 AM

BJ

“ *To the Clem Family.*

Your parents were very special people. I will always have fond memories.

Bob Trask Jr.

Bob Trask Jr. - August 21, 2015 at 03:06 PM

JC

Thanks for all you have done for them Bob! You have been a great friend!

jim clem - August 24, 2015 at 01:23 PM

CS

Mom often mentioned you Bob and what you were doing for them when she was still writing emails...thank-you so much!
Carole Clem Sfondouris

Carole Clem Sfondouris - August 26, 2015 at 08:28 AM

RH

“ *Many and Tuesday and/or Friday I would take off work to ride with Mrs. Clem and Mrs. Shirey to watch the Peninsula Pirates play baseball. She was a real sweet lady. Wonderful memory. Renie*

Renie Hall - August 20, 2015 at 10:01 PM

JC

Thanks Renie! She was always happy when you came with them!

jim clem - August 24, 2015 at 01:26 PM

CB

To all my cousins and their families. How blessed you are to have parents like Frank & Vera. Solid gold! I always enjoyed her visits with Dad in Alaska. She would send me links to articles about her grandsons when they were playing baseball. She was so proud, & rightly so. I didn't see "Auntie Vera" that often, but I will miss her. My condolences. Carla Brady

Carla Brady - August 27, 2015 at 09:17 AM

CS

Carla! Thank-you so much...Mom loved you in a very special way! You were her God-daughter besides niece and it meant so much to her! Yes, we were very blessed. I will get your email address and catch you up.

Carole Clem Sfondouris

Carole Clem Sfondouris - August 27, 2015 at 12:57 PM

PU

On behalf of the family of Gus and Eda Mariotti, we extend our sincere sympathy to all f you. Our parents were great friends back in the old days in Enumclaw. Take care and be grateful for the fine parents you have. Patti Mariotti Usack

Patti Usack - August 28, 2015 at 12:12 AM

CS

Thank-you Patti... Yes, they were great friends and your Mom and Dad always talked to us kids too.

Your Mom took a bunch of us to a convent once when I was a Junior she was so much fun...Steven and I were in the same Catechism classes...:) Thank-you so much for bringing back good memories...Carole Clem Sfondouris

carole clem sfondouris - August 29, 2015 at 03:35 PM