



Delta Lorene Schutz

February 16, 1925 - July 15, 2021

Delta Lorene Schutz

Delta Lorene Schutz (Guinn), 96, long time resident of Toppenish, Washington and known by

many in the community as “Nana,” was called to her Heavenly Father on Thursday, July 15th, 2021 at

Good Samaritan Health Care Center after a long and beautiful life.

Delta was born February 16th, 1925 to Desmond and Isa May Guinn in Buckley, Washington. She

was the fourth of five children in the Guinn family, and was delivered by her father at midnight. Delta

was a daddy’s girl! She loved to be carried around by him and even elected to use his birthday, February

17th, as her own later in life (much to the surprise of her family).

A proud French/Irish woman, she grew up helping out in the home with her mother and the hop

fields with her father. She was raised in the Non-denominational Christian church and spent much time as a child and young girl at church or in the

service of her family. One of her main jobs was carrying water to the hop fields for her brother and father daily, a job which she did not love, but did anyway.

She attended school in Outlook and Prosser as a young girl, and her life-long dream was to become a teacher.

Delta was as resilient as she was kind. She survived polio at age 10 and had

to leave school the summer before her junior year in high school to move with her family to Western Washington to care for her mother. She never re-enrolled in school and lamented this throughout her life that she didn't finish.

Her love of school and learning would carry over throughout her lifetime as a mother, a Nana and as a community volunteer.

It was following her family's move that she was introduced by her cousin to a handsome young man, Melvin J. Schutz of Toppenish. She knew they were meant for each other from the beginning! With special permission from her father, Delta and Melvin were married on April 18th, 1942 in Toppenish. Their love story was one for the ages. They never stopped dating and celebrated 70 years of marriage before Melvin's passing in 2012. He even went as far as requesting bench, not bucket, seats in his Del Monte company car so Delta could always ride right next to him. He was the love of her life and she was his.

Melvin and Delta were only separated in their many years together by war and work. Shortly

after they were married, Melvin was sent to basic training in Tennessee. As soon as she was able, Delta

joined him there and remained there at the Army base until he was sent to Europe to fight in WWII. She

returned to Toppenish, pregnant with their first child. In 1943, Delta gave birth to the couple's first child,

Cheryl K. Schutz. Delta and Melvin would be reunited when Melvin returned from the war in June, 1945.

Mel & Del bought a small home and life was good! He worked for the Del

Monte Corporation and she worked as a homemaker. They welcomed a second child into their family in 1953, Ricky Lynn Schutz.

Delta was a devoted wife and mother. She took great pride in these roles and spent many years

supporting her children in school and caring for her hubby and home. She would often say she had

wanted a dozen children, but the good Lord gave her two, and she was so very grateful for them. During

this time of her life, Delta was active in the PTA, Boy Scouts as a Den Mother and she never missed a

concert or sporting event.

Being a mother gave her the second greatest joy of her lifetime, becoming a Nana. She helped

care for all eight of her grandchildren; watching and teaching them throughout the years. She may never

have held a certificate, but she was an extraordinary teacher! She instilled a love of reading and writing

in each of her grandbabies. Delta taught morals, manners, respect and how to work. Her day started

early and only ended when she was satisfied with what she had completed for the day. She also

reinforced a strong faith and belief in her family; although they stopped attending church services in the

1950's, Nana never stopped sharing the word of the Lord.

Delta and Melvin's devotion to family was constant. They never missed a game, a concert, an

event or an activity of their grandchildren. They would often take them camping for the weekend (one of

their favorite activities) or with them as they bowled in their bowling league.

Nana was a great hostess and loved having every holiday in her home. She reveled in spending time with those that she loved and took great pride in every Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter celebration. She was especially good at creating traditions for her children and grandchildren that they continue to treasure to this day.

Nana and Papa lived a full and active life through and beyond retirement. They were active

members of the Eagles in Toppenish for many years and supported the Toppenish Booster Club. Nana

was a master note writer and supported the Eagles in the kitchen and by writing letters to bereaved

families. She and Papa loved to travel during this time. They would take long trips across the Pacific

Northwest with their long-time friends and family, Connie and Stella Wentz and Chuck and Vi Slagg. You

could also find them walking miles and miles around the Toppenish community each morning to stay

healthy. Nana was an avid reader and continued to read her Bible and her favorite Amish stories until she was no longer able to do so.

Delta is survived by her sister Tina (Ken) Marsh of Puyallup and daughter Cheryl (Schutz)

Affholter of Yakima, her daughter-in-law Debra (Stewart) Schutz of Toppenish and her eight

grandchildren: Andy (Diane) Affholter, Randy (Tara) Affholter, Shannon (Shannon) Affholter, Jacob (Beth)

Schutz, Jessica (Rob) Bjur, Janay (Joseph) Monzingo, John and Joshua Schutz. She also leaves behind 16

great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. She also has numerous

nieces, nephews and
cousins on both sides of her family tree.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 70 years, Melvin, and
her loving son Rick

Schutz. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Isa and Desmon,
three siblings and their spouses,

and all of her in-laws. Over her 96 years, Delta lost several nieces and
nephews and many of her friends.

She is reunited with them all and watching down on us, as another of our
guardian angels.

A private graveside service will be held on Friday, July 30th at the Zillah
Cemetery for family and

close friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at Colonial Funeral Home in
Toppenish at 11 am following

the graveside service on the same day. Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home is
handling all services for Delta.

All are welcome to attend the Celebration of Life of this incredible women's life
and legacy.

Her family would like to thank Karen Lommers for being a dear friend and
book buddy to Delta

for many, many years. They would also like to thank Fieldstone Orchard West,
Good Samaritan,

Memorial Hospice and Colonial Funeral Home for all their help and care for
their dear Nana and mother

at the end of her journey. Nana loved to read and share the joy of reading with
her family; her family

would like to continue on her love by purchasing books for local children to
enjoy. Those that would like

to contribute, donations can be made at Colonial Funeral Home or you may
bring your favorite children's

book to donate at her Celebration of Life Service. We love you Nana, to the

moon and back.

Previous Events

Burial

JUL 30. 10:00 AM (PT)

Zillah City Cemetery
1st Avenue
Zillah, WA

Celebration of Life

JUL 30. 11:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Delta Lorene Schutz*

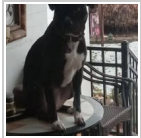
October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Thank You Note*



Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home - August 03, 2021 at 05:47 PM



“ *I have so many fond memories of "Mel and Del" as we called them at The Golden Wheel. They were one of my favorite couples. Met them when I was a teenager working at the restaurant and going to school. There was an immediate connection.,We had numerous conversations about anything and everything. They became like family to all of us at the restaurant. Mel was always smiling and Del was such a class act. I know they are both missed terribly by the family. They are joined together forever. That makes me smile.*

Sincerely, Sherrie



Sherrie Bechard - August 02, 2021 at 06:06 PM

JJ

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
May God Bless.
Dana and Judy Jones*



Judy Jones - July 27, 2021 at 10:26 AM

SB

“ *Mrs Schutz, as I always referred to Delta, is a most treasured and respected woman.
I was privileged to know her as a teacher and / or coach of her family members.
Her smile is clear in my memory. Her love and devotion to her family are felt in my emotions. Stories exemplifying here endless love and guidance will be shared for generations. When I send blessings to Mrs Schutz I realize why Bold solid capitals were invented. Delta, my RESPECT to you.
Stephen T Busby*

Stephen T Busby - July 25, 2021 at 09:03 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home - July 23, 2021 at 02:33 PM



“ *Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of Delta Lorene Schutz.* ”



July 22, 2021 at 11:55 PM

“Delta Schutz was an awesome, wonderful lady. She was a true “treasure” for family and friends alike.

If I were to pick ...just one word ...to describe her, I would choose the word best. She was the best wife to Melvin Schutz. She was the best mom for Cheryl and Rick Schutz. Best Nana to many. Best grandma, best great-mother, best sister, best aunt, best niece, best neighbor. But, for me, she was the best book-buddy / friend.

Delta loved to read. She described herself as an “ardent” reader. Enthusiastic. Passionate. Yes ...to both. Just read, read, and read some more. Give Delta a book and she was happy. 😊

Delta’s most favorite book was her Bible. When she lived at Fieldstone, she engaged in reading this work on a daily basis... sometimes two to three times throughout the given day.

Delta also enjoyed Amish stories. She got me interested in them, too. We explored eighty- three different Amish authors. Some of these authors wrote twenty or more different stories! Her favorite author was Wanda Brunstetter. Believe it or not, Wanda lives in the Yakima Valley. How exciting is that! 😊

During my visits with my book buddy, I learned that she had two big aspirations in her life. The first was to become a teacher. She wanted to take classes, get a degree, then teach thirty students in a classroom. Mel agreed that she should become a teacher but not in a school setting, she would teach from her home 🏠. So it was ...just that. Her first pupil was her daughter, Cheryl. Nine years later, Rick joined the classroom. Two children and great success!!! Would you believe, Delta had wanted a dozen children?

Well, her children eventually had children, and most of them attended Delta ‘s school and have lived Delta’s dream. Teaching. Educating. Being involved in education in some form.

Cheryl’s family: Andy and Randy became high school classroom teachers (coaches, too) , Shannon taught (somewhat) not in a school setting, but a bowling alley. His student was Delta! One evening he went on a bowling date with Mel and Delta. He was supposed to be their score keeper. At one point Shannon declared: “ No. No . Nana . You are doing it all wrong!” Then he gave her a lesson. She graciously smiled and complied. And yes her score

improved! Teacher? At age five or six? Way to go dear grandson.



Rick's family: Jacob did security work in Ellenburg(thus protecting students and professors, and other community members.), Jessica trained to be an RN ... married Rob(school computer technician)...and later became a school nurse, Janay studied to be a counselor... married Joe another counselor, John went to college earned a BA, MA and continuing, and lastly Joshua became a school paraprofessional and coach.

Delta's family. She was so proud of them.

Her second aspiration was to write a book. Earlier in her lifetime, she wrote down ideas. When she moved to Fieldstone her notes were left behind. And , she tired. But , she did come up with a possible title: "What if "

Delta, you were the very best of best. Two of your favorite expressions: Love you to the moon and back! And, it is ... what it is! I somiss you. ❤️ Karen

Karen Lommers - July 22, 2021 at 02:12 AM