



Shirley Anne Thomas

December 6, 1936 - January 9, 2024

Shirley Anne (Gunnyon) Thomas 87 passed away peacefully surrounded by the ones she loved on January 9th, 2024. Born on December 6th, 1936, to Edward Gunnyon and Alta Smith at home in Toppenish Wash. Shirley was born into a family of 5 brothers and 5 sisters. She was a proud enrolled member of the Yakama Nation. In her younger years Shirley grew up down at Celilo falls on the Columbia River where her father fished. Moving back to Toppenish she moved in and lived with her grandmother to start middle school and continued her schooling until she graduated from Toppenish High School in 1955. In high school she became a cheerleader and was part of school plays. On December 10th of 1955 she married her high school sweetheart and love of her life Jim Thomas. They created a little family of their own with three children (Debbie, Jimmy, and Billy). Jim and Shirley were married for 62 years until the passing of Jim in 2018. Having siblings still residing where Shirleys mother grew up in Midway, Utah she and Jim would visit them every summer for many years. Shirley and Jim also spent many years traveling the Northwest to fiddle contests and musical festivals. Being a very proud Top-hi Wildcat, she loved watching and cheering for her son's playing sports in school for the Wildcats. She even adjusted well and cheered just as hard for her grandsons that played for Wapato! And continued to even get the see her great grandson play ball. Shirley was regularly active in the town of Toppenish and a member of the historical society and mural society. She also volunteered at the information center of Toppenish. Shirley was very

dedicated and committed in preserving the rich history of Toppenish. To all that are sad to see the passing of Shirley there is happiness to fill that grief. For she is now with the love of her life again and to never part again. Shirley preceded in death by her parents Ed and Alta Gunnyon; husband Jim Thomas; Daughter Debbie; great grandson Jimmy Thomas Jr; Brothers Jack Henley, Bud Henley, Tom Henley, Bill Gunnyon, Eddie Gunnyon; Sisters Mildred Davis, Virginia Daffern, Jean Haugen, Pat. She Leaves behind sons Jimmy (Ana) Thomas and Billy Thomas, grandchildren Logan, Chance, Cheyenne, Tanner, and Hunter. 9 great grandchildren and Sister Betty Lou Gellos.

Viewing to be held at Colonial Funeral Home in Toppenish, WA from 1pm to 4pm Wednesday January 17th. Funeral service January 18th 11:00 am at Colonial Funeral Home and burial following where she will be laid to rest beside her loving husband. A luncheon will follow at the Toppenish Eagles.

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

Elmwood Road
Toppenish, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder Street
Toppenish, WA 98948
(509) 865-3222
info@heggiescolonialfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Shirley was a favorite in our family. Was always kind a thoughtful with our and our families Her husband Jim and our father Bill were very close and we always felt welcome when we visited as kids and adults. I've cherished the relationship with her family and our cousins and missing what we all had as families ❤️

JaAnn Thomas - January 30, 2024 at 05:56 PM

CR

“ I was privileged to have met Shirley when I joined the Toppenish Historical Society. It was immediately evident that she had significant knowledge and love for Toppenish, as did her late husband, Jim. She was a fun person to be with, always sharing her gentle spirit and positive outlook on life. When the Historical society met for luncheon meetings at the Branding Iron, Shirley was a dainty eater! She would order a sandwich, eat half and take the rest home for her evening meal. She could always be counted on for accurate information about the development of Toppenish and the many changes throughout its history. Blessings to Shirley's family and friends for whom there is a missing link. Colleen Reimer

Colleen R Reimer - January 25, 2024 at 01:49 PM

CJ

“ It is with great sadness we just heard that Shirley passed away. Such a kind, fun, and caring friend. So thoughtful of everyone and enjoyed being involved with her family, friends, sports, and several activities in Toppenish.

She had a great sense of humor and there when you needed her. She loved being a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and enjoyed the many special friends of her keds through their school and sports.

May her love of all of you and the great memories help in the days ahead.

Rest in peace, Shirley. You're a great lady.

Jerry& Carol Johnson

Marvina McDonald and family's

Carol Johnson - January 24, 2024 at 04:28 PM

JM

“ I loved watching you and aunt Marilyn and my grandmother Lucille at family get togethers. You would all laugh so hard together. Thank you for being a wonderful loving great aunt.

Jodie miller - January 17, 2024 at 10:45 PM

JM

“ Jodie Miller lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Jodie miller - January 17, 2024 at 10:40 PM

SM

“ Shelley Mesplie lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Shelley Mesplie - January 16, 2024 at 10:55 PM

SE

“ Stev Emil lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Stev Emil - January 16, 2024 at 10:36 PM

JJ

“ Funny but today I drove by Jim and Shirley's house and thought to myself"again" I should stop by and see how she is doing. But I know I do not like people to "just drop by " so I didn't. I have known the Thomas family since I was a little girl. Jim Thomas's sister Eleanor and her husband Henry Hale were my parents best friends and my God parents. We all enjoyed the old days of Toppenish in it's "hay day" and the family parties. The Thomas's were musically talented and would always add a lot of special fun to our get togethers and also help us as we mourned. I know Jim is happy to have his beautiful bride by his side again .God Blessings Thomas family

Judy Schutz Johnson - January 16, 2024 at 06:58 PM

SB

“ I was 12 or 13 when I met her. She and Jim were friends of the family. Her daughter pierced my ears at a sleepover at her house. Years later when I'd be in town visiting my dad I'd stop in at Jim and Shirley's. Always sweet and welcoming and interested in my life. She was a wonderful, kind, fun lady. I was lucky to have known her.



Suzy Pratt Bale - January 16, 2024 at 06:10 PM

TJ

“ Terri Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Terri Jones - January 16, 2024 at 02:30 PM

LB

“ Leah Brice lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Leah Brice - January 16, 2024 at 01:15 PM

BO

“ Bernice Owens lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Bernice Owens - January 16, 2024 at 01:09 PM

PE

“ *Paula Emil lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas*



Paula Emil - January 16, 2024 at 09:23 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Shirley Anne Thomas.*



January 15, 2024 at 05:29 PM

AF

“ *Rest in Peace my Cousin* ❤️



Abel French - January 15, 2024 at 04:21 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home - January 15, 2024 at 12:50 PM

KL

“ Shirley Thomas was a wonderful lady. She loved her family and friends. One younger friend was very special to both Shirley and her husband, Jim....Miss Katie! So much like a daughter to both of them.

On several occasions I had the privilege to see Shirley and Katie interact while shopping at the drug store. Bantering back and forth with lots of giggles and laughter. Those two enjoyed their time together! :)

Shirley and her husband were “active” members of the Toppenish Mural Society. They spent a lot of time volunteering at the Mural Office. They , too, came into the drug store from time to time. The pair was always happy and attentive to one another. A beautiful couple. Special. And, caring. Such an awesome sight to witness by all.

Shirley will be missed by her family, her friends, and many of the people that knew of her.

Prayers and blessings,
Karen Lommers



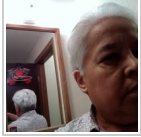
Karen Lommers - January 13, 2024 at 03:33 PM

ST

“ Susie Tynan lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas



Susie Tynan - January 13, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ *Shasta Watlamet lit a candle in memory of Shirley Anne Thomas* ”



Shasta Watlamet - January 13, 2024 at 01:11 AM