



Vivian Marie Olsen

December 9, 1923 - July 17, 2020

Vivian Marie Pratto Olsen, 96, passed away on Friday, July 17, 2020 in Pocatello, Idaho.

Vivian was born in Joliet, Illinois on December 9, 1923 to Joseph and Mary Sestak Pratto. Vivian attended school in Joliet, Illinois and graduated from high school there.

Vivian was attending Illinois State Normal University to become a teacher. She graduated with an associate degree in education and taught for a while. It was the beginning of WWII and she saw the Uncle Sam poster that said, "I Want You." She enlisted in the Navy without telling her parents and when they came to pick her up, she told them. They stopped the car with her mother yelling, "You did what?" Vivian said she thought her mother was going to have a stroke!

A few days later, she reported to Great Lakes Naval Hospital to finish paperwork. Vivian went to NYC for five weeks of training and was found academically fit to serve in the medical field. She was sent to the Naval Base in Memphis, Tennessee. She got sick on the train ride and ended up in the hospital with pneumonia. There she met her future husband, Robert Ray Olsen, who was a 1st Class Pharmacist in charge of forty German prisoners. They became friends and later married on March 3, 1945 in Hernando, Mississippi without telling her parents. They were later sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on August 16, 1969. Vivian was discharged from the Navy after becoming pregnant with her first child, she returned to Joliet to live with her parents while her husband finished his enlistment.

Vivian lived in Pocatello most of her life only to go to Bremerton, Washington when her husband was reenlisted. They returned to Pocatello to spend the rest of their lives.

Vivian went to work at Pocatello Public Library and when the city bought the Bookmobile, Vivian and her good friend Marylou volunteered to drive the bus from school to school so that kids could have books to read. They traveled to Downey, Preston and Malad with that service and retired after thirty years. Even after Vivian no longer participated in the

program, we couldn't take her anywhere without someone recognizing her as the "Bookmobile Lady". Vivian was an avid reader and taught her family to love books. When her eyesight failed her, she would listen to her scriptures on tape every day.

Vivian was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints when her little sister, Bobette, was baptized. She was an active member, attending every week until covid-19 kept her home. The last few months were hard on Vivian because she could not go to her family home evening group which she loved so much. She didn't like being locked up in her home. She served in many capacities for the church, but her favorite was the librarian where she helped organize several ward libraries around the stake and took great pride in what she accomplished!

Vivian loved to knit and spent many hours making afghans for her children and grandchildren. She taught many young women how to knit despite the challenges of her being left-handed.

Vivian loved to be outside and doing yard work. She was an excellent cook and taught her three daughters to cook as well. After she retired, mom and dad would travel to Yuma, Arizona every year from October to April. Every Christmas while they were away, we would receive boxes of grapefruit, oranges, lemons, and limes that they grew in their yard. They made many friends in Arizona and went on many trips and cruises with them.

Vivian was an avid cheerleader for all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, watching their soccer, baseball and basketball games. She loved to go see the kids play. In later years, because of her failing eyesight, she could not always tell which player belonged to her.

Vivian had a spicy personality and you never had to wonder where you stood with her because she would let you know.

After her husband's passing, Vivian relied on her faithful companion Mindee Two, her Boston Bull Terrier. The passing of Mindee Two left her distraught because she was then living alone. She volunteered to babysit the family dogs for vacations. The dogs always returned home from grandma's "fat and happy!"

Vivian liked to visit and could talk with anybody for hours.

A very big thanks goes to her son-in-law Vern, who gave many hours of his time generously to take care of her. He would run her errands and take her to doctors'

appointments. Their favorite was going to Costco to enjoy a hotdog and ice cream.

Vivian's grandson Jeremy lived in her basement and saved her from having to leave her home in the last few months. He helped her in so many ways to care for her and make her life comfortable. A big heartfelt thank you to him.

Vivian is preceded in death by her husband, Robert, her parents Joseph and Mary Pratto and her baby brother Elmer Pratto.

She is survived by her daughters Sandra (Vern) Briscoe, Jo Bamber, Bobette Underwood, 14 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held at Wilks Funeral Home on Thursday, July 30, 2020 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2020 at Restlawn Memorial Garden in Pocatello, Idaho.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family under the "Tribute Wall" tab above.

Cemetery

Events

Restlawn Memorial Gardens
2864 S. 5th Avenue
Pocatello, ID, 83201

JUL
30

Viewing 06:00PM - 07:30PM

Wilks Funeral Home
211 W. Chubbuck Road, Chubbuck, ID, US, 83202

JUL
31

Graveside Service 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Restlawn Memorial Gardens
2864 S. 5th Avenue, Pocatello, ID, US, 83201

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Wilks Funeral Home - July 22 at 01:03 PM



“ Vivian and her family lived across the street from my mother and dad's house and just up the road where I lived. At that time she drove the bookmobile and would park it right in front of her house at noon. I liked to get books for my little son, so she invited me to go right in and get all the books I wanted and then in a few days I would bring them back and get more.

She was always so accommodating and kind to me and I appreciated her so much, and also enjoyed watching her children growing up.

love and condolences

Sonja Hancock



Sonja Hancock - July 31 at 02:22 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Graveside Service



Wilks Funeral Home - July 31 at 02:20 PM



“ Dana Viguerie and Family (Jo's youngest daughter) purchased the Fields of Europe for Spring for the family of Vivian Marie Olsen.



Dana Viguerie and Family (Jo's youngest daughter) - July 30 at 12:03 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Darci Mullin - July 29 at 10:16 PM



“ I will never forget your mother and grandmother. I'll be honest, I was a little scared of her at first, but soon learned that if I followed the rules there was no reason to worry. She was always kind to me and helpful. She was one of those people that you meet and don't forget. Bobette, Joe, and Sandra -- I lost my mother in 2007 and I miss her every day. It's not easy to say goodbye to your mom!! You will be in my prayers!
Love, Sue Ann Hess Bowman

Sue A Bowman - July 29 at 06:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dana Viguerie - July 29 at 06:07 PM



“ I lost a dear friend on Friday. I will miss chatting with her every few days. She had a memory like I could not believe. She was always wanting to go somewhere and was not happy having to stay home with the conditions as they are now. Rest in peace sweet friend I know you will be having a great reunion. We love you and will miss you! Janette Fifield

Janette Fifield - July 19 at 07:27 PM



“ To Vivian's family, I sure liked Vivian - such a sweet spitfire of a lady since the day I met her! She always treated my dad Gerry and I with such kindness. I remember sitting in the living room with Vivian and Bob to chat in the 90's, and later when she came to visit my firstborn in 2005. Love to all of you as you cope with her passing. — Crystal

Crystal A. - July 18 at 06:27 PM