

Mae LaVonne Raupp

Feb. 1940 - Feb. 2016



Besides being musically talented, LaVonne also loved to sew, embroider and crochet. She sewed many of the matching outfits that the family wore during their performances, adding embroidered accents to the yokes of her husband's and sons' shirts and the bodices of Beverley's and her dresses. To keep her hands busy during travel, LaVonne crocheted hundreds of "granny squares" and eventually made each of her four children a crocheted afghan.

As a teenager, LaVonne's education was disrupted as she and her sisters traveled with their mother to perform. She and her twin graduated high school through a home correspondence course, but she never pursued college until she had raised her family. LaVonne was 50 years old when she began attending Cabrillo Community College in Santa Cruz, California. Her family was very proud of her for stepping out of her comfort zone and earning straight A's. She also began working full time for a software company during this time of her life, and enjoyed being a part of the growing educational software trend of the early 90's.

LaVonne's love for Jesus shone through everything she did. She was the sweetest, gentlest and kindest person many people had ever known. Love of and devotion to Jesus, music, her husband and family summed up her life. Those who knew her were blessed by her smile, her laughter, her beautiful piano playing and her sweet alto voice singing the many songs she wrote and composed over the years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Albert and MayDell Darden of Pinole, California, and her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Bill and Beverley Raupp of Medford, Ore.

LaVonne is survived by her husband, Don Raupp of Richland, her children, Robert Raupp of Seattle, Wash., Jonathan (Lisa) Raupp of Grass Valley, California, Beverley (John) Minarich of Richland, and Zackary (Sarah) Raupp of Tacoma, Wash. Her grandsons, Robert (Jamie) Minarich, Daniel Minarich and Joshua (Caleah) Minarich all of La Grande, Derrick Scott of Los Angeles, California. Cameron Raupp of Tacoma, Wash., and Joey and Jonny Raupp of Grass Valley, California. Her twin sister, Laverne (Archie) Phelps of Palm Desert, California and her younger sister, Evelyn (Jim) Harding of Vacaville, California. Her sister-in-law, Dotti Neasham of Medford, Ore. She also has several loving nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews who will fondly remember her.

Memorial donations may be made to Eagle Valley Grange, Eagle Valley Ambulance, or the charity of your choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home PO Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Joyce Regina Robertson

1928 - 2016

Joyce Regina Robertson passed away peacefully at home, with her family by her side, in Baker City at the age of 88. A memorial mass was held on Feb. 12, 2016 at 2 p.m. at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Baker City with a reception following in the Parish Hall.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Eugene. Joyce and Eugene had six children: Sallie, Steve, Nancy, Dale, Ilene, and John. 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren also survive her.

Joyce was born in Anaheim, California to parents Andrew and Anna Hoffman and was one of nine children. She spent her childhood living in California as well as in Oregon. She graduated from Orange City High School and had a career as a

Cosmetologist until she married her husband, whom she had known while growing up in southern California.

Her life is characterized by her devotion to her family and living out her faith. She enjoyed gardening, being an active member of her church communities, and keeping her home a respite for her family.

Memorial donations in her honor may be sent to St Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Baker City through Gray's West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Joyce, please visit: www.grayswestco.com

Death and Service Notice

Gary Marlette, 76, of Richland and Baker City died at his home on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

A Nation of Law, Not Anarchy

By James C. Carnahan of Baker City

Resistance to the power of the federal government is not something new. Throughout America's history there have been periods of resistance, and associated debate, regarding a strong vs. a weak federal government. Some has merely been discussion. Some has been violent.

The initial debate started with the American Revolution to gain independence from Britain. The 13 colonies agreed to armed resistance but lacked a unified method of dealing with the many requirements of fighting a war against the British. The Continental army suffered as a result and General Washington had to make personal appeals for feeding and outfitting his men. The colonies lacked little incentive to support a fight that wasn't directly affecting them. After gaining independence, the new Americans were little motivated to give up their new independence. The Articles of Confederation were adopted but, as the name implies, it was only a confederation of states, not a unified, strong, federal government. The Articles provided for a congress but no executive or judicial branches. There was no authority for the states to comply and Shay's Rebellion showed there was no way to raise a national military. The Articles lasted a mere eight years. The result was the constitution that still defines America today, the constitution that provides for a strong federal government. The constitution gives to states rights that are not otherwise taken by a strong federal government.

There was a test of the strong central government concept during Andrew Jackson's administration. High tariffs were unpopular in the south and South Carolina, led by John Calhoun who had served as Jackson's Vice President, declared the right to nullify legislation that was seen as detrimental to their state. This Nullification Crisis (1832-1833) was quieted with the passage of a modified tariff but after serious federal

and state military alerts and saber rattling.

During the 1850s the issue of state's rights (although the underlying cause was slavery) became a rallying cry in the south, led again by South Carolina. After Abraham Lincoln's election in 1861, the Civil War (1861-1865) erupted with the greatest loss of life of any American war, some 600,000 to 700,000 died in this test of federal vs. state's rights. Although Union victory over the Confederacy was a result of numerous factors, the independence of the southern states severely weakened them. As just two examples, a lack of standard railroad gauge in the south hampered transport of troops and equipment across state lines, and lack of cooperation among states demonstrated a lack of support for their overall cause. In 1865, when Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was in rags, Florida refused to share thousands of new uniforms that were stockpiled, holding them for their own state's use. The Civil War's bloody cost resolved that the United States was a union, one nation, not just a collection of states that could choose to cooperate or not.

Given that question of a strong federal government vs. a weak one was settled over 150 years ago, is there a genuine basis for anyone to claim exemption from government regulations? How can people effectively voice their frustration without takeovers and armed revolt?

There clearly are tensions between resource businesses like ranching and resource agencies. In my own experience as a day-working cowboy, gathering cattle on BLM and USFS allotments in Central and Eastern Oregon, it has frustrated me to remove cattle when the grass was as tall as my stirrups. I knew that remaining grass would, at best, go to waste or, at worst, become fire tinder as the summer continued. The BLM area north of Eagle Valley is a good example, burning last fall when a truck overturned and provided the igniting

spark. It was easy to tell the first of July when we gathered cattle that way too much grass/fuel was being left in what was already becoming a very hot, dry summer. But permit conditions had to be met and the grass remained to be burned. Other ranchers and cowboys have had their own experiences of how things could be done better but positive changes never seem to happen. The resource managers typically respond that their hands are tied because of regulations. The common term has become federal over reach but maybe a better term would be federal over regulation.

Now we have the right-wing fringe arming themselves with guns taking over federal facilities attempting to force change. But they are breaking the law. Over the past 50 years we have, had the left wing fringe arming themselves with attorneys and taking over government at federal and state levels and have made the changes they wanted. They haven't gotten everything they wanted--federal land isn't all wilderness and closed to all activities--but they have tried. Does anyone think the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) just happened on their own? Environmental groups have been working in Washington, D.C. and state capitals for years to generate the laws and regulations that exist today. And it will take legal action to repeal or adequately amend those laws before real change is possible. It has to be done through the same legal channels that got us into this mess.

Positive change could start with resource agencies (BLM, USFS, etc.) standing shoulder to shoulder with counties to oppose the environmental groups trying to close down federal lands. The old principle of multiple use needs to prevail. And the agencies need to push back against unreasonable regulations coming from D.C.

We need to pursue change and this

will be a significant challenge. At the time of the Civil War some 75 percent of Americans were directly involved with agriculture. Today it is 2 percent. Most Americans think only in terms of the supermarket as a source of food. Most politicians wouldn't know the difference between wheat and barley or between Angus and Hereford. It has to start with education and credit the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association for working in that regard. The next step will be working within the legal process to get laws and regulations changed. It will be costly, time consuming, and frustrating but that is what needs to happen. We need to cowboy up and get it done.

America needs to remain a nation of law, not anarchy.



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