

## Charlene 'Kayce' Culver

March 4, 1939 — Aug. 14, 2021

Umatilla

Our dear mother, Charlene "Kayce" entered Heaven's gates on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, while holding the hand of her eldest as she took her last breath here on Earth.

On March 4, 1939, the world was blessed when Charlene Kay was born to Ivan and Charlotte Kraft of Sand Lake, Michigan. She spent her young years in Michigan until her family moved to San Luis Obispo, California. Sadly, at the tender young age of 12, Charlene's dear mother passed and her father, Ivan, moved his five children to Sunnyside, Washington. Charlene



Culver



Culver

attended school in Sunnyside, thriving in Cheer Squad and Glee Club and graduating from Sunnyside High School in 1957.

A young wife and mother, her first marriage blessed her with four children; while the marriage ended in dissolution; Kayce found and married the love of her life, Delmer Culver. They had a daughter together, Teresa, who joined her four siblings. Del and Kayce shared 51 wonderful years until Delmer's passing in November of 2017.

Charlene is survived by her daughters, Pamela (Bill) Martin, Denise Honeyford, Lisa (Thomas) Eppel, Teresa Buchanan; and only son, Douglas (Brooke) Honeyford; her sister, Joanne LaBelle of Spokane; and youngest brother, Michael (Linda) Kraft of Mexico, Missouri.

In addition to her children, Kayce, a loving and doting grandma and "grandma great," she is survived by nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her two little dogs, Heidee and Frankie, who have been rehomed within her family.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Delmer; her parents; and brothers, Don and Timothy.

With heartfelt memories, we share with you, our Mother, Charlene.

Momma was selfless, often going without so that her family's needs would be met. She made sure we knew about Jesus and instilled in me a spirit of love for others; she believed in the Golden Rule. She and Daddy called a taxi to get us kids to Sunday school when our car was in the shop; that's how strongly she felt about us learning about the Lord, whom she loved.

Her fun-loving spirit was infectious! Riding bikes with us, encouraging and often instigating silliness. She would happily join in on the goofiness. Momma, a self-taught seamstress, proudly made beautiful dresses, "polyester" swimsuits and one Christmas, stuffed animals for each of us.

She was my cheerleader, even more so as I grew older. I loved to hear her voice and would call and talk for an hour or more. She was my best friend.

Momma loved African Violets, butterflies and the color purple. She had a knack for decorating and dressing with style. I love and miss you so much.

— your daughter, Denise  
Saying goodbye to your Mother is incredibly heartbreaking, saying goodbye to her under COVID-19 protocol is gut wrenching.

Thank you, Mom, for inspiring me with the gifts of laughter, love, hard work and most of all the confidence to accomplish anything in life. May you rest peacefully knowing that we have, and will continue,

to instill these traits to your loving granddaughter, Lucie, who affectionately calls you "Grandma graham cracker."

Although you left way too early, rest assured our family will be inspired by you, Mom, forever. Wishing you a smooth, final flight West, we love you Mom.

— your son,  
Doug  
Mom, you had the most beautiful, sparkling blue eyes and when I looked into them, I could see and very much feel your unconditional love for me (as for all my siblings). You were my biggest supporter, always telling me I could

accomplish whatever I set my mind to. You always believed in me. I am so grateful to you for instilling my faith, for sharing your love of nature, birds and butterflies, beautiful gardens, and of course your favorite color, cobalt blue, which has become mine as well.

You filled our home with music, laughter and silliness (and of course your infamous cinnamon rolls). You taught me by example, exactly how to be the type of Grandma to my grandbabies as you were to my children. You will be forever in my heart, Mom; I will hold you close and never let you go. Until we meet again, rejoice in your heavenly home.

— your daughter, Lisa  
"Dear sweet mother of mine," the greeting of every card or text I would send to you with love. If there was one word to describe you, it would be LOVE and it's what you gave us unconditionally.

You taught me to always be honest no matter how difficult it may be to tell the truth as honesty creates trust and trust should never be broken. You taught me how to overcome adversity with perseverance, that the reward of working hard is a wonderful feeling. You taught me about love and forgiveness which leads to compassion. You taught me about the power of prayer which led me to an unwavering faith. Through you, I learned to be a woman of grace.

Your singing filled our home on a daily basis — gospel, country or oldies-but-goodies. I find comfort knowing your joyful spirit is already seen in your grandchildren and great grandchildren. The crazy desire to dance "like no one is looking" and the inherited silly "cackle," laughing at silly things no one around understands, but we do.

You took delight in finding little treasures in nature. You loved flowers; roses, carnations and pansies. You instilled in me an appreciation for the beauty of our world. The smell of rain upon the earth, the windy days, cold and snowy days; you found joy in all of it and shared that joy with me. You were like a child experiencing everything for the first time, every time. With every sunrise and sunset, I will think of you. And miss you. I love you momma, thank you for the gift of life.

— your daughter, Pamela  
Above all, our mother was a woman of faith, she found joy and comfort in her daily devotions and her daily walk with her Lord and Savior. Momma, may you forever be at peace, resting in the arms of Jesus.

Please note, due to the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions, our dear mother's memorial service will be scheduled for a later date; and please, above all, love one another, show compassion and get vaccinated.

## Eileen Rose Sobotta

July 28, 1931 — Sept. 14, 2021

Hermiston

Eileen Rose Sobotta passed away peacefully on Sept. 14, 2021, in Kennewick surrounded by family.

Eileen was born to Mathias and Gertrude (Schmidlkofer) Hansen July 28, 1931, in Chewelah, Washington, the fifth of six siblings. Unfortunately, her father passed away in 1933 from pneumonia, but Eileen was blessed to have a large and loving family and they were soon moved to the dairy farm of her maternal grandparents, Mathias and Elisabeth Schmidlkofer. She was brought up on the farm with the help of many aunts and uncles and was especially close to her uncle, John Schmidlkofer, who served as a father figure to her after the loss of her own dad. Even though this was during the heart of the depression, Eileen said they were blessed to have plenty to eat thanks to the gardens, crops and livestock that the farm provided.

Living on the farm meant everyone pitched in and there was not a lot of leisure time, but Eileen and her siblings didn't need to go far to have some fun when time allowed. They enjoyed exploring the nearby mountain forests and lakes in the summer and sledding and ice skating were just out the back door in the winter months.

Eileen attended St Mary's Catholic School in Chewelah from first through ninth grade and Jenkins High School in Chewelah from 10th through 12th grade, graduating in 1949. In August of 1950, Eileen married her high school sweetheart, Harold Barnhart, in Chewelah. Within six years they had three daughters and a son. Harold would die in a work accident in 1956, and once again Eileen would turn to her family, who were always by her side for help. Eileen and her four young children moved in with her mother, and with the support of their loving uncles and aunts nearby, the family was able to get through this tragedy.

Eileen married Jack Sobotta in 1959 in Chewelah. Jack was working as a pharmacist at the local drugstore and they would add four more sons to their family over the next several years. The family moved to Longview, Washington, in 1964, and then settled in Hermiston for the long haul in 1966. For Eileen, Chewelah would always remain a special place to her and she and her large family would visit often to see Grandma Hansen and Grandpa Barnhart as well as all her siblings, uncles, aunts and cousins. Many fond memories were made during those trips.

Jack and his brother, Jerry, would come to purchase the Hermiston Drug in 1971, while Eileen continued to manage the home front. As Eileen's children grew older she would help out with the bookkeeping at the drugstore. Eileen was very proud of all her children and was always there to help them, but never to smother them. She would give them the freedom to make many of

their own decisions and would dust them off when some of those decisions did not work out so well.

Along with her faith in God, her family was the most important thing in her life. She and Jack always made sure the family made trips together during the summer. It is amazing to think how many people and luggage could fit in a 1972 Safari station wagon. Many of these trips were to Chewelah or Lapwai, Idaho to visit relatives. Eileen loved the Oregon coast and enjoyed many vacations to Lincoln City or Newport, often with the Neyman family joining them. Between all the kids in both families, it didn't take them long to clear the pool area for themselves.

Later as the kids moved out, Jack and Eileen would take longer trips with relatives. They visited Civil War battlefields, small New England towns in the fall, and went to a couple of Notre Dame football games to mention just a few. For Eileen, she loved spending her precious free time going for long walks and working in her flower garden. She was an avid reader and was always ready to make a needed repair with her sewing machine. But her most precious time was the time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She and Jack spent many a chilly evening cheering them on at one of their various athletic events. Jack would pass away in 2015.

Besides her family, Eileen had a deep love of her Catholic faith which was in evidence to her final breaths. Eileen is survived by her sisters, Margaret Owens of Chewelah, and Doris Hendrix of Colorado Springs, Colorado; brother, Ed (Kay) Hansen of Chewelah; daughters, Cheryl (Dan) Riley of Kennewick, Rita (Dave) Davis of Hermiston, Debbie (John) Tolan of La Grande; sons, Rick (Nancy) Barnhart of Tigard, Perry Sobotta of Hermiston, Sam (Elisa) Sobotta of Bend, Matt (Davi) Sobotta of Seattle, Tom (Heather) Sobotta of West Linn; as well as 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Eileen was preceded in death by husband, Harold Barnhart; husband, Jack Sobotta; parents, Mathias and Gertrude Hansen; brother, John Hansen; sister, Marie Wissink; and great-grandchild, Eastin Strebin.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Sheri, her caretaker while at Fieldstone and to Chaplaincy Hospice Care of the Tri-Cities. The family would also like to thank Nataliya and her staff at Desert Wind Gardens for the care of Eileen in her final months.

Recitation of the Rosary and funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Boardman, with burial to follow in the Hermiston Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Chaplaincy Hospice Care of the Tri-Cities.

## COURTS

### Sentences

The following criminal sentences have been imposed in Umatilla County Circuit courts:

Edwin Villarreal Juarez of Umatilla pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving (Class A misdemeanor); sentenced to 60 days in jail (120 days suspended), two years bench probation and \$1,500 in fees.

Johnie John Powers of Vale pleaded guilty to a 2013 charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants (Class A misdemeanor); sentenced to two years bench probation, \$1,250 in fines.

Dean Robert Grove of Pendleton pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree sexual abuse (Class B felony); sentenced to 13 years, seven months to Oregon Department of Corrections and 10 years post prison supervision.

## George Lieuallen

March 9, 1938 — Sept. 11, 2021

Weston Mountain

George was a handsome man, born to George Chester Lieuallen and Jean Valentine Lieuallen (Millar) in Walla Walla. He died peacefully and surrounded with love in Pendleton on Sept. 11, 2021. He was 83.

George was a descendant of Oregon pioneers, who traveled to the Weston/Athena area, by wagon train, in the very early 1860s from Missouri. All became local farmers and ranchers, and many of the descendants of those original pioneers remain in the area, still farming and ranching to the present day.

George was raised by strong parents and was the oldest of four. In his youth, he enjoyed 4-H, Future Farmers of America, basketball, football, and chasing the ladies. He was a member of the Honor Society, graduating from McLoughlin Union High School in 1956.

George started farming at a very young age, helping his dad with the wheat and pea harvest. He later received a degree in agricultural engineering, with a minor in accounting, from Oregon State University in 1960. Like his mother, he enjoyed education, and went on to receive a master's from Cornell University, Graduate School of Business and Public Administration in 1978.

George married his childhood sweetheart, Nancy (Steen) Lieuallen, in 1958, while they were both in college. After graduation, George managed the Steen Ranch from 1960 to 1969, in addition to his own wheat, pea, cattle and hog operations. George enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1963, receiving an honorable discharge in 1967.

George began working for Portland General Electric Co. in 1969, and moved his family to Tigard. George and Nancy were married for 22 years, having three children before divorcing in 1980. They remained good friends the rest of his life. George worked in senior management in the engineering and accounting fields at PGE until his retirement in 1992.

George remarried in 1983 to Leeanne Varney and they were married until 1992. Together they had two children. Leeanne's father, Edmund (with whom he developed a close friendship), introduced him to beekeeping, where he found harmony merging his passion for the outdoors and farming. George continued beekeeping most of his life. His son, Ryan, now operates one of the largest apiaries in the Pacific Northwest, just a few miles from where George was born and farmed. Leeanne and George also continued to be friends through the remainder of his life.

In the mid-1990s, George was very pleased to return to his beloved Blue Mountains and the Weston/Athena area, where he felt a strong connection to the people and the land. This was home, and where he lived the final quarter century of his life, and where he always longed to be.

After George returned home to the Weston/Athena area in the 1990s, George purchased a variety of properties near Umatine and in the local Blue Mountains, and invested in a small mixed herd of cattle. He spent the final years of his life, very happily, in a century old log

cabin on Weston Mountain.

George enjoyed a succession of close relationships with Patricia Gregg (Walla Walla, deceased), Nita Stocke (Milton-Freewater), and finally Della Mae Barr (Athena). The family has good memories of those friends of George's, and know he had many happy memories with each of them as well.

George volunteered with the Kiwanis Club, Little League and youth basketball.

He also volunteered as president of the Tri-County Community Council, and served a term as president of the United Way of the Pacific Northwest. For many years in the 1970s, George was a member of the Creative Initiative Foundation, an organization working towards nuclear disarmament and world peace.

George enjoyed country music, camping, fishing, hunting, long traveling road trips across the western states and nature walks. George also enjoyed snow skiing and his motorcycles. He was a natural mechanic, and enjoyed fixing anything from washing machines to airplanes. Keeping old things running brought him pride and satisfaction. It also displayed his sense of frugality, which was an ideal he valued. In his younger years, he enjoyed horses, carpentry, woodworking and tinkering with all things electrical. In his retirement, he looked forward to working with his cousin, Brooks, in wheat harvest each fall, climbing back into the seat of a combine.

George believed in the power of time; planning and putting forth adequate thought, and he always persevered. He believed in honesty and forgiveness. His greatest joy was raising his children and being a grandpa. He took joy in the little things, like taking a drive at dusk on Basket Mountain, a glass of wine, a pull off his stogie, or a quiet sunset. He particularly loved family reunions and visits with extended family, nieces, nephews and cousins.

George was a Christian, and attended various churches throughout his life. In his final years, he enjoyed regular Bible studies with Al and Judy Voshell, always looking forward to those visits.

The family would like to thank Jeff Sorn for his kindness, care and companionship with dad in his final years.

George is survived by his brothers, Doug and Neil; sister, Patricia; his children, Katie Oser (Lee), Dennis (Staci), Bret (Traci), Jessica (Griffin), and Ryan (Stacie); many cherished nieces and nephews; and his 12 grandchildren.

Services will take place on Saturday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. at Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Masks are required. A graveside service immediately followed at Weston Cemetery, Weston, Oregon.

Memorials may be made in honor of George Lieuallen to the Umatilla County Historical Society, Heritage Station Museum: www.heritagestationmuseum.org/about/donations. Flowers may be sent to Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater, OR 97862. To leave an online condolence, visit www.munsellerhodes.com.

## DEATH NOTICE

### Merle Franklin Hixson

Dec. 31, 1938 — Sept. 16, 2021

Hermiston

Merle Franklin Hixson, 82, of Hermiston died Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, in Hermiston. He was born Dec. 31, 1938, in Baker City, the son of Earle and Mabel (Wallingford) Hixson. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.