



Ethel Marie Skiles

November 11, 1927 - August 31, 2017

Ethel Marie Skiles passed away peacefully in her sleep August 31, 2017, at the Community Nursing Home of Anaconda, where she had been a resident the last few years. She was 89 years old and was married for 66 years to Frank Lewis Skiles, who predeceased her in 2013.

Marie's childhood began in Southern Cross, Montana, where her Father, Michael Benson, worked in the Southern Cross Company gold mining operation, and her Mother Mary Brennan Benson worked in the Post Office. Marie graduated high school at age 17 and attended a 3-year Nursing School in Idaho, completing her R.N. program with high honors in 3 years. That is where she met Frank Skiles, to whom she would be married in February 1947. After passing her State Certification for Nursing, she worked in the local hospital. They lived for 2 years in Los Angeles while he finished college at UCLA since his prior college years were interrupted with his World War II Army service. While in LA their daughter was born in 1949. After he graduated, they lived in Idaho for a few years while he worked for the Bureau of Reclamation. In 1952, they moved to the Washington D.C. area where they lived until retirement many years later. Their Son Michael was born in 1956.

Marie held several nursing positions in the D.C. area, but mainly was a dedicated Mother and homemaker. She was also highly inquisitive, and took additional college coursework at Prince George's Community College, spending many joyful hours studying history and literature. She was a very dedicated parent, taking her children to local events such as Navy Band concerts, museums, providing for music lessons, etc. These efforts helped both of her children be successful in their respective fields. Marie lived most of her DC years in Suitland, Maryland.

When Frank retired in 1972, they moved back West, living in Avon and Hamilton, Montana, before settling in Anaconda, where she had graduated from Anaconda High School and had such deep roots, returning to live for over 20 years together on Chestnut Street. They always enjoyed pets, and Tipper the lab was an important companion to them

especially in their later years.

Marie picked up new skills easily, such as learning to sew very competently from the woman across the street. Highly social, she developed many friendships which lasted throughout her life. She was extroverted, and loved meaningful conversations. She sought to promote learning and knowledge, and often donated books to the local library in Anaconda.

She was ahead of her time in such areas as tolerance for different races, religions and creeds, for being ecologically minded, promoting healthy eating, and for women's rights. She was a freethinker like her husband, and participated actively in the Unitarian Church for much of her life. She had social consciousness, and cared about what was going on in the world. She loved music and enjoyed a wide range of categories such as Tom Jones, classical, and the pipe music of Zanfir. She enjoyed sewing and trying new things in the kitchen such as making yoghurt from scratch.

Marie will be remembered by family and friends for her friendly willingness to converse, her broad knowledge of many subjects, her cheerful demeanor and for being ahead of her time. She is survived by her daughter, Linda Skiles Thomas, married to Jim Thomas, by their three Children, Jim Jr., married to Ivy Thomas, John, and Cathy, married to Justin Ivey, and by her Daughter-in-Law, Marie Chavez, widow of her Son James Michael Skiles, who pre-deceased her, and by Marie's daughters Natasha and Solange, and by Kimberley Skiles Fortier, daughter of James Michael Skiles by a previous marriage.

Her life will be celebrated at a Memorial Service Saturday, September 16th at 1:00 p.m. at the Longfellow Finnegan Riddle Funeral Home, in Anaconda, with Rev. Myrna Havner, officiating. A reception will follow. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the Memorial Service.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for the American Humane Society, 1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20037.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

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Longfellow Finnegan Riddle Funeral Home
107 Oak St., Anaconda, MT, US, 59711

SEP **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

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Longfellow Finnegan Riddle Funeral Home
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Comments



“ In Loving Memory of Mom/Grandma Marie Skiles, who we will always love and cherish in our hearts.
She was our strenght, comfort and guidance through rough times and she taught us how to enjoy life and make the best of what we have.
Through her laughter and songs, we were exposed to a different kind of phylosophy of life that taught us how to understand and accept things that are difficult to comprehend. Now, it all makes sense! She was ahead of her times and we had the privilege to learn from her things that others would never have the chance to comprehend. Her vast knowledge of subjects and unconditional love was passed on to her children, Linda and Mike, who in turn passed it on to their families and loved ones.
We have lost the pillar of our family, but before she left, she made sure the foundation and the rest of our family structure was well reinforced. We will all hold strong as she leaves us momentarily. She will still guide us in spirit until we all meet again.
Rest In Peace, Mom, Grandma, you taught us well.
With all our love,
Maria, David, Solange, Natasha and Stephen



Maria Alonso Chavez - September 14, 2017 at 05:34 PM



“ Dear grandma,
I am writing you so the whole world can see how much you mean to me. Over the years you have taught me the power of generosity, hospitality, community, knowledge, and love. Because of your teachings I have become a better person. I am sad that I no longer get to see your face, but I know that you are at peace smiling down upon us all. You and I already know that our communication line is NOT closed. We will continue to talk in our dreams and hearts. Most importantly I want to thank you for everything you have done for me and my family. Your actions will never be forgotten. Instead your memories will be passed on, and praised. Love you always, forever, and in eternity to the most sophisticated, gregarious, beautiful grandma that I'll ever know. Talk you soon.....Soli



