



Jennylee Church (Church) Olesek

May 20, 1906 - October 10, 2014

Jennylee Church Olesek passed away peacefully at 108 years of age on Friday, October 10th in War Memorial Hospital, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Jennylee was born on May 20, 1906 on Harbor Island off of Drummond Island, Michigan at the home of her grandparents Dr./Captain J.Wells and Rosalee (LeSage) Church. Her parents were Captain Hector Hall and Margaret (LeRoy/Hamilton) Church. Her early years were spent on Drummond and in the Detour area. She graduated from Sault High School in 1923 and married John Olesek (deceased) in 1926. Of their four children, Margaret Ann (Russell) McPherson of the Sault, and Fredric Wells (Pamela) Olesek of Reno, Nevada survive. She was predeceased by sons John, and Dr. Gerald Church Olesek. As with most centenarians she was also predeceased by her siblings Gordon "Bud" (Alice) Church, Eleanor (George) Duffy, and Gloria (John) Faris. Jennylee is survived by seven grandchildren, Debra McPherson (Michael Doyle), Michael (Christine) McPherson, Cynthia (Gordon) Brazil, and Denise McPherson of the Sault; Christy Olesek of Prescott, Arizona; Rick (Susan) Olesek of Los Gatos, California, and Gordon (Megan) Olesek of Los Altos, California. She was also blessed with ten great grandchildren (Jason Brommenschenkel, Kris (Lisa) Brommenschenkel, Nicole Hobbs, Michael John (Trisha) McPherson, Kara McPherson, Brooks Olesek, Quinn Olesek, Gavin Olesek, Samuel Olesek and Cecelia Olesek; and seven great- great grandchildren, Christina, Brett, Avery Grace, Katie, Brianna, Rebecca, and Shayla. Her many nieces, nephews held a very special place in her heart and

they continued to visit and remain a part of their “Auntie Jen’s” life. She maintained strong ties with her cousins Rosalie LeSage of Drummond Island and Iva Harrington of the Sault. Jennylee was very thankful and fortunate to have Dr. Thilak Chander as her personal physician and loved him as a family member and great friend. For most of her early adult life she worked at the Ojibway Hotel. She then discovered a passion for the game of bridge and played in the Elks and Country Club Bridge Clubs for over sixty years, her last games were actually in May of this year. She was most proud of winning the Grand Championship (in her late nineties) in the prestigious Ontario Tournament in Sault, Canada. Jennylee found great friends and camaraderie as the “oldest” Red Hat member, and a Sault Tribe member. She also was an avid traveler most of her life, driving Route 66 numerous times as well as tours to Central America and Europe. She loved to write notes of wisdom to her many family members and friends, and took pride in their educational and personal accomplishments. She was an avid reader keeping up with research and world events. Jennylee hosted university students in her home to talk about factors contributing to her longevity and she very much enjoyed the younger generations. Jennylee loved parties and social events. Her secret to a long life (besides good genes) was no housework, no stress, and a glass of Chardonnay! At 107, Jennylee agreed to pose for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Hospice Calendar as “Miss May.” Jennylee passed before moving to the new Hospice House but her wishes were to continue to support E.U.P. Hospice and a memorial fund is established in her name. Many thanks also to the wonderful nurses and aids that cared for her over the last few months at Hearthside, War Memorial Hospital, and Long Term Care. Jennylee will be buried next to her loving husband John, in Oaklawn Chapel Gardens on Saturday, October 18th at 11:00 am with Father Pawel Mecwel officiating. As per her wishes, a Celebration of Life will begin at 1:00 pm for family and friends at the Elks Lodge in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Come share your stories and raise a glass in celebration of Jennylee! Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jennylee Church (Church) Olesek*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Jennylee Church (Church) Olesek*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Jennylee Church (Church) Olesek*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *What a great lady.....my condolences to you!*

Joyce (wojnaroski) sterling - October 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *It is with a heavy heart that I express my sympathy to Margaret and Fred in the loss of their mother...what a special person Jennylee was. I am a 2nd cousin to Jennylee and related through my grandmother, Margaret Melvin Seaman. We had a wonderful visit and brunch at the little cafe across from her apartment about six years ago, while visiting from California. She was such a vibrant and exciting person to talk to... such a wonderful memory. Over the years we have had interesting phone conversations, mostly about family history....Jennylee is now with so many of her friends in Heaven... In sympathy and love, Rochelle & Howard*

Rochelle (Seaman) Wiley - October 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ To Jenny Lee's Family & Friends: I am not making it to her celebration. But I am happy that today the sun is shining as you celebrate her. Thank you for letting me work with Jenny Lee for the past few years. Compared to the longevity of her life, I really only knew Jenny for a brief moment. She said she loved me; I loved her. I hope that you will all have a day full of good memories and laughter. Jenny Lee was always happy, and so good to people. I am glad that I got to know her. love, Melissa

Melissa Aponte - October 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ What a great lady. I remember all the card games at Dorothy and Herb Michael's at Barbeau. Mom and Dad would bring Jim and I with them. They had fun and so did we. I was always Little Jeannie to Jennylee. Those are such great memories. We had such good food and drinks. You are so lucky to have had her for so many wonderful years.

Jean Lemkie Allen - October 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ I am glad I had the pleasure of knowing Jen! She was a great lady and a wonderful bridge player. She played a great game until becoming I'II!

Ruth Truckey - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I hope in her passing she was greeted by her friends Andy and Rose Snider at the Pearly Gates. What a wonderful woman... and those who loved her have such great memories to cherish. I am so thankful that I stopped at the hospital to see her in August during my one day in the Sault. She was so vibrant and her mind so sharp, I left thinking she would make it to 110 or more. My deepest sympathy to all her many family and friends. Her memory will always put a smile on my face!! Jean Snider Haralson daughter of Rose & Andy Snider

Jean Snider Haralson - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM