

Carol Joy Orme Holding

February 18, 1929 ~ December 22, 2024

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Carol Joy Orme Holding, passed away on December 22 at the age of 95 in Salt Lake City. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy, defined by her generous spirit and her tireless work ethic.

Carol was born on February 18, 1929, and adopted by Cecilia and Joseph Arthur Orme who loved her dearly. She grew up in Idaho and Utah with her sister, Margy and her brother, Frank. As a young woman, she was devastated when Frank was killed in action during World War II, followed a few years later by the death of her father whom she adored. She graduated from East High School in 1946 and attended the University of Utah.

In 1949, Carol married her best friend and love of her life, Robert Earl Holding. They found true partnership in each other, with boundless energy to pursue the dreams they shared. Together, they began their first business planting and cultivating a 25-acre peach, pear, and apple orchard in Dimple Dell. Working side by side became their trademark–both in business and in life–and defined their 64 years of marriage.

In 1952, the Covey family offered Earl and Carol the opportunity to move to and manage Little America, Wyoming. Carol always said they were “just two young kids who didn’t know what we were doing,” but in the 13 years they lived there, she and Earl worked tirelessly to shape the remote travel center into a bustling and successful operation.

As their business grew, Carol and Earl maintained the same hands-on approach, traveling to each property to work with their employees. Customers at the hotels were often surprised to see Carol making beds in the guest rooms or bussing dishes at the restaurant. Leading by example was her and Earl’s way: no job was too small, no detail was overlooked. Long before computers or spreadsheets, Carol kept track of the numbers by calling each property each day and writing down their sales figures in her own hand-made charts.

Above all, Carol believed the people with whom she and Earl worked were the most important part of the business. She maintained this dedication and deep appreciation for the employees throughout her life. Just a few weeks before her passing, she spent Thanksgiving Day touring the hotels to thank each employee personally for working on a holiday, much like she had during every Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Mother’s Day.

Making people feel acknowledged and appreciated was Carol’s true character and thinking of others was her daily practice. Before noon most mornings, she would have food delivered, a card sent, or a problem solved. She nurtured relationships with people from all walks of life because she loved all people and saw the good in them. Her charity had no bounds.

As a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Carol was immensely proud of her children, and a spirited cheerleader for each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She always encouraged their

endeavors and stoked their passions, whether attending performances and sporting events, or framing and displaying transcripts and art projects. She surrounded herself with a rotating collection of photos of those she loved so dearly. Carol had a special knack for poems, pranks, and riddles, which she was known to craft and share with family and friends. She had an amazing sense of humor and a talent for telling stories with particular finesse and flair. She would often jovially say, whether in conversation or while speaking to an audience, “I always get the last word!”

Carol was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She had a strong testimony and developed her faith as a little girl. Even while working at the orchard with Earl as a teenager, she would bring a clean dress to change into and walk to church to teach Sunday School. She epitomized the value of compassion.

Though her fiercely strong spirit will be missed by all who knew her, she will live on in the memories of the people she served. She is survived by her three children, Anne, Kathleen, and Stephen, their spouses, 12 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother, Frank, her sister, Margaret, and her beloved husband, Earl. The family would like to extend their immeasurable gratitude to the nurses and close friends who offered wonderful companionship and care to Carol in the years since Earl’s passing.

At Carol’s request, a party to celebrate dear friends and employees will be held Saturday evening, January 11, 2025 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Grand America Hotel. A private family service will be held at her Wyoming ranch, where she will be buried next to Earl. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Intermountain Foundation at Primary Children's Hospital or to University of Utah Health. Her life may always be celebrated by thinking of others and working hard.