

Laura May Bates Arnold

May 15, 1930 ~ July 16, 2021

Our beloved and blessed Laura May Bates Arnold passed away peacefully at her home on July 16, 2021 surrounded by family. She was born May 15, 1930, in the family home to Ernest Bates and Louise Butler Bates in the Teton Valley area of Idaho. Laura came from a large family (siblings: Hyrum, Leonora, Merrill, June, Orrin, Irvin, Neva, Steven, Velda, Wanda, Gwenith, Derold, Cloyd, Marvin, Twila, and Carol). She spoke fondly of growing up on the family farm with her siblings and remained close to them throughout her life.

As a young woman, Laura attended Teton Valley High School and graduated from Ricks College (now known as BYU Idaho) with a major in Elementary Education and a double minor in Music and Psychology. After graduation, Laura taught numerous elementary students in the Bonneville and Jordan School Districts.

Laura strived her entire life to be a missionary and follow the Savior's example. She served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Western Canadian Mission. She also served in many callings, including den mother, young women's president, chorister, ward missionary, and visiting teacher. In addition, Laura spent many hours researching ancestors and linking genealogical records.

Laura married Gerald L. Arnold on August 16, 1957, in the Idaho Falls Temple. Together, they were wonderful parents and raised ten children. Laura taught her children the value of hard work, patriotism, and a love for the gospel of Jesus Christ. She spent countless hours faithfully keeping journals and updating her children's baby books. She was the motivating force behind each of her sons achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

This amazing and elect woman will be missed greatly and is survived by her children Sherilyn, Deanna, James, Bruce (Povie), Elaine (Robert), David (Georgia), Shirley (Ted), Steven (Kristin), Aaron (Jenn), Kim (Matt) and siblings, Gwen Shepherd, Derold (Nyla) Bates, Marvin Bates, Twila Worthington, Carol (Charlie) Pyne, 36 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren (so far).

Laura loved everyone and is no doubt enjoying a traditional Bates family reunion with her parents, husband Gerald, and siblings Hyrum Bates (infant), Leonora (Albert) Tenity, Merrill (Thora) Bates, June (Morris) Josephson, Orrin (Marjorie) Bates, Irvin (Ruth) Bates, Neva (Rollo) Barrett, Steven (Mary) Bates, Velda (J) Bevan; (Frank) McKellar, Wanda (Dee) Humble, Cloyd (Elenor) Bates, (Todd Shepherd), (Shirley Bates), (Paul Worthington) son-in-law Milan Hopkins, granddaughters Audrey May Arnold and McKenzee Bird.

We are grateful to have had this wonderful and beautiful woman in our lives and, through the atonement of Jesus Christ, look forward the day when we see her once again.

The family would like to thank all of those who so lovingly cared for our sweet Laura and treated her with such dignity, kindness, and respect during her final moments on earth.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Monday, July 26, 2021 at the Sandy Park Ward, 1050 East Galena Drive, Sandy, UT. A visitation will be held on Sunday evening from 6-8 pm at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 South), Sandy, UT and Monday morning from 9:30-10:30 am prior to the services at the church. If you would like to watch the services virtually or share a favorite memory of Laura with her family, please visit larkincares.com.

To join the services virtually please click on the blue "Watch services" box to the right of her picture. You will then click on another link. You will need to have a Zoom account. To sign up for your own free account, visit zoom.us/signup and enter your email address. You will receive an email from Zoom (no-reply@zoom.us). In this email, click Activate Account.