

Ona Bartlett Patterson

February 19, 1930 ~ March 27, 2022

Ona Bartlett Patterson, age 92, died Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Wellington Senior Living Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. She had been in declining health for some time, but her death was sudden yet peaceful. She was born February 19, 1930, in Tridell, Utah to Charles Owen Bartlett and Caroline Mabel Jones Bartlett.

Married Royce Dale Patterson 1950, Salt Lake City, Divorced 1980.

She was the fourth child born to Owen and Mabel Bartlett in Tridell, Utah. She spent her first nine summers living at 10,000 feet in elevation where her father owned a sawmill in the Uintah mountains, supplying much of the lumber for the area. Their first house, built by her father, had a dirt floor, and her first school years were spent in a 4-room schoolhouse. Financial hardship hit the family when the sawmill suddenly caught fire and was completely destroyed on June 4, 1940. Even in this adversity, the family was close-knit and worked together to survive the depression, while their father worked rebuilding a mill behind the house. As a junior in high school in 1947, she was chosen to attend the first “Girls State” ever held in Utah. In her senior year, she won the first prize given by BYU for best editorial published in a high school paper, as well as a scholarship from the University of Utah to study education. She graduated from Alterra High as the Salutatorian, Class of 1948.

She attended the University of Utah, leaving to marry in 1950. Four children were born in 1950, 1951, 1953, and 1955, and the family lived in Granger, then Holladay. When her youngest was old enough, she began working nights as a waitress and attending college classes during the day, graduating with a teaching certificate in 1962. She was an educator in Granite District for 37 years, variously 2-6th grades, at Academy Park, Woodstock, Meadow Moor, Twin Peaks, Lincoln, Western Hills, Lake Ridge, Carl Sandburg, and Rosecrest, as well as a Language Arts Curriculum Writer, and Title One Teacher Specialist.

Ever a writer herself, she was convinced children would produce surprising writing given opportunity and guidance. She was in charge of The Poetry in the Schools Project, a federally funded program helping elementary teachers to encourage creative writing in children. In 1978 she formed Apple Peelings to distribute her own innovative classroom materials for teachers, giving countless workshops all over Utah and in surrounding states, as well as presentations at national and international conferences and conventions. She was very active in Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary teacher’s sorority, serving as an officer in several capacities.

Her publications include the collections of children’s poems When the Dipper Spills, My Thoughts are Seeds, and Fragile as Butterflies with the Poetry in the Schools Project and several articles published in the Utah English Journal, Instructor Magazine, The English Envoy, and NCTE’s Council Grams.

She received many awards, including teacher of the year from Carl Sandberg Elementary in 1983, and was a district finalist several times, including the Excel Outstanding Educator. She was published in the national Who's Who Among American Educators in 1986 1987, 1988, and 1992, and in the international edition of 1990. She received the Alpha Theta State Achievement Award in 1983, the Woman of the Year Award from Della Kappa Gama in 1986, and the Utah State Legislative Award in 1992. After 37 years, many with perfect attendance, she retired from teaching in 1999.

Throughout her life she was an active member of the LDS Church, holding many positions of responsibility. She produced the newsletter for the Olympus 8th ward for many years and was in the Relief Society Presidency as well. Her faith was her bedrock and illuminated her life in times of both adversity and of joy. The death of Gwen (Bunny) at age 16 in 1968 was difficult, and she also buried sons Stan in 2007 and Val in 2012.
Her oldest son, Stan had presented her with twin grandsons in 1988, bringing her great pleasure and 3 great-grandchildren, all of whom she dearly treasured. In her later years, she spent a great deal of time in her garden and took up quilting as well. As a young mother, she had made most of her children's clothes, and as a retiree, began producing beautiful quilts for her friends and relatives. She looked forward to the annual trip to the Houston International Quilt Festival with sisters Lela Coons, Elizabeth Bartlett, and Darlene Bartlett, meeting niece Jenny Chiovaro in Houston for several days each fall.

She is preceded in death by her children Stanley Owen Patterson, Gwen (Bunny) Patterson, and Val Bartlett Patterson; by her parents Charles Owen Bartlett and Mabel Caroline Bartlett, by her siblings Gwenna Bartlett, Elizabeth Bartlett Hall Gillard, Mark J Bartlett, and Lela Bartlett Coons.
She is survived by son Donald Lee Patterson, siblings Clyde R. Bartlett, Floyd H. Bartlett, and Charles Claymore Bartlett, and grandsons Jon Patterson, wife Joyce Wang, Sean Patterson, and wife Tram Patterson, and great-grandchildren Iris Patterson, (Jon & Joyce) Liam and Cedric Patterson (Sean and Tram). She has many loving nieces and nephews, including Jenny Jean Chiovaro.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 11:00 am at the Olympus Stake Building, 2675 East 4430 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84124. Viewings will be held at the Olympus Stake Building on Sunday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Monday from 10:00-10:45. Interment is at Memorial Holladay Park, 4900 Memory Lane, Holladay. To virtually attend the funeral services through zoom please follow below.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8041973810?pwd=OXpIRjQ4WWdNY3FPdzk2bFdqUWFodz09

Meeting ID: 804 197 3810
Passcode: Oly82020