



Gwendolyn May Helfrecht Luke

MAY 15, 1924 - NOV 29, 2020



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Gwendolyn May Helfrecht Luke

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Gwendolyn May Helfrecht Luke

May 15, 1924 – November 29, 2020

Gwen H. Luke, age 96, passed away on November 29, 2020, incident to advanced age and the effects of Alzheimer's / dementia, in South Jordan, Utah.

Gwen was born May 15, 1924 to Charles Robert and Vivia Buchanan Helfrecht in Twin Falls, Idaho. She was raised in Twin Falls with her brother Jack, and graduated from Twin Falls High School before attending Idaho State University at Pocatello, Idaho.

Gwen married William Smith Luke, who she had known since Junior High School, on March 14, 1944 in Sioux City, Iowa, during the first part of World War II, while Bill was in the Army Air Force. They were later sealed in the LDS Salt Lake Temple.

She is survived by their three children: Robert (Eileen), Kenmore, Washington; Gary (Suzanne), Salt Lake City, Utah; and Alicann Lunceford (Russell), Phoenix, Arizona, as well as seven grandchildren, twenty-one great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild on the way, who all live in places from the west coast to the east coast. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, her brother, and one granddaughter.

Gwen and Bill raised their family in Twin Falls, Idaho; Rexburg, Idaho; Burlington, Washington; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

She was employed for 19 years at the University of Utah as a secretary, and then as an administrative assistant. She cherished the many friendships made during that time.



Obituary

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Gwen loved her neighbors, friends, and Ward members while living in her condominium in Holladay, Utah, where she served on the Homeowners Board for several years. She loved gardening, her roses, and especially “weeding” her flowerbeds. She loved visiting with all her neighbors, including the little neighborhood children, to whom she would provide Werther’s candy when they visited.

She served in many Ward church positions over the years, including Primary President, Young Women President, and Relief Society President. She loved serving as an instructor in all the church auxiliaries, and taught early-morning Seminary for several years. Music – especially singing – was always a very important part of Gwen’s life.

Gwen and Bill served three Missions together for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the first in the California San Bernardino Mission, the second at the Washington D C Temple, and the third, a Family History Name Extraction Mission.

Gwen was grateful for her good life, and for the many blessings she received. She always said that her family, her Church, and her dear friends were “the loves of my life.” She was proud of the fact that she was able to live independently in her condo through her 95th year.

As Gwen’s family, we wish to thank the staffs of Pacifica Assisted Living Center – Millcreek, and Pheasant Run Alzheimer’s Special Care Center – South Jordan, for their friendly, loving and compassionate care of Gwen during her final year.

Due to covid-related restrictions and concerns, no in-person Memorial Service will be held. Per her wishes, Gwen will be buried beside her husband William at The National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, in Phoenix.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gwen’s memory to either the Alzheimer’s Association (www.alz.org), or to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (www.komen.org/how-to-help/donate/memorial giving).

Condolences and memories can be sent to the family at: www.premierfuneral.com.



Tribute Wall

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RL

Robert Luke shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



December 18 at 1:13 PM

RL

Robert Luke shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



December 13 at 11:43 AM

PC

P. Carson posted:

Our condolences to Gwen's family and friends. She was proud of her pioneer ancestors. She was a member of Daughters of Utah Pioneers, joining in 1954, 66 years!

December 10 at 7:36 AM

JL

Juliann Law posted:

December 7 at 9:58 AM

KE

Kenzie posted:

I had the pleasure of caring for Gwen while she was at Pheasant Run care center, she was a very kind and loving lady. Every day when I would come into work she was the first person I would go see, She would always ask to talk to my husband on the phone. They face-timed almost every day after dinner. I loved being able to sit and paint her nails and talk about her family and answer any questions she had about my family. I will miss her very much the short time I got to know her I will cherish.-Kenzie

December 7 at 5:25 AM

RL

Robert Luke December 9 at 5:45 AM

Thank you, Kenzie, for your loving care of Gwen.- Bob Luke

LA

Lorraine Anderson lit a candle in honor of Gwendolyn.

I worked with Gwen for two years, 1975-1977, when I was just out of college and working at the Human Resources Institute at the U. I still remember her sweet, kind, and gentle presence, and the sense of fun that would bring a smile to her face so quickly. May she rest in deep peace. --Lorraine Anderson, Corvallis, OR



December 6 at 3:48 PM

RL

Robert Luke December 22 at 6:50 AM

Thank you, Lorraine, for that touching memory.- Bob Luke

JS

Judy Short Scharffs posted:

Gwen and my mom, Bess Eads were the closest of friends the last several years of their lives. The workers at Wendy's new them by name and knew their orders. They played dominoes on Saturday afternoon for hours. They talked daily. I get to love Gwen as my mom did. She was always loving, positive and ready to laugh. She and I attended a Tabernacle Choir performance one evening. I remember how much she enjoyed it. I love Gwen. I'll miss her. But there are definitely happy reunions taking place in heaven. Judy Short Scharffs

December 6 at 3:32 AM

BL

Bob Luke December 6 at 9:03 AM

Thanks Judy! I hope that Bessie and Gwen can find a Wendy's in Heaven.

SL

Suzanne Luke posted:

Sweet Gwen! She was the best mother in law, best grandma, and best great grandma ever! Such fun memories, too many to count! We will miss her but we know we will be with her again!❤️

December 5 at 5:50 PM



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KS

Kristin Smith posted:

Too many memories but what I loved most about Aunt Gwen's, her open arms, big heart and awesome hugs. You always felt welcome and apart of the conversation even as a child. Thank you Aunt Gwen's for always loving me. Give Uncle Bill a huge hug for me. I can see you both smiling and happy to be together again.

December 5 at 7:31 AM

BL

Bob Luke December 6 at 9:09 AM

Thanks Kristin !- Bob

DR

David S Rogers posted:

I remember camping in the back yard with the joyful Luke cousins. One big pile of cushions and blankets watching the stars and delighting to be in their home. Hanging with the Lukes in Twin Falls was great! Aunt Gwen was special child of God. The sweetness of her countenance was special. She had a very special demeanor that you always loved and appreciated. Whenever you saw her it was a great joy. Our love and condolences to the whole family at this time. Me ke aloha pumehana, (With warm aloha) David Smith Rogers, son Emma Lu Luke Rogers Honolulu

December 4 at 6:44 PM

BL

Bob Luke December 6 at 9:10 AM

Thanks David ! Mahalo !- Bob

SS

Sue Smith posted:

Hi cousins, I was so sad to hear that Aunt Gwen had passed away and yet very excited that she was able to be with Uncle Bill again. I love her so much. My memories of my visits with your Mom are very tender to my heart. I send you all my love and pray for our Heavenly Father's comfort and peace to be with you at this time. Suzi Smith

December 4 at 2:19 PM

BL

Bob Luke December 6 at 9:11 AM

Thanks Sue !- Bob

GL

Gary S. Luke posted:

We love and cherish my Mother Gwen! I will be eternally grateful that she lived close enough to us that she could be a huge part of our lives, our children's lives, and our grandchildren's lives! We LOVE you Grandma Gwen; goodbye — just for now! ❤️

December 4 at 12:47 PM

GL

Gary S. Luke posted:

<https://doc-0c-3g-docs.googleusercontent.com/docs/securesc/ojr8tn10ako4crbatts57nc7u5eddv7jj/ariotfgp9ih362167fcjpf1fcb27gsj4/1607117325000/1556364233517808892CM?e=download&authuser=0>

December 4 at 10:32 AM

GL

Gary S. Luke posted:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TfdQeNaWlhbqXI-9uwHuM9HBJVXZBlem/view>

December 4 at 10:28 AM

CL

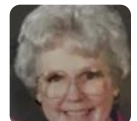
Charlie Luke posted:

I will love you forever, Grandma Gwen!

December 4 at 9:37 AM

PS

Premier Funeral Services shared an album called **Memories Album**.



December 4 at 9:32 AM



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December 18 at 1:13 PM



Gwen and Bill on Mission



Media

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2019 - Gwen liked to play Noodle Ball.



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December 4 at 9:32 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gwendolyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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