



Viola L. Rees

August 16, 1919 - August 27, 2013

Viola "Vi" L. Rees, 94, of Anderson, passed away on August 27, 2013 at the Community Hospital Anderson, IN. She was born on August 16, 1919 in Fall River, MA and had lived in Anderson since 1954 presently at Bethany Pointe Health Campus. She graduated from Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, and from the oldest school of practical nursing in the United States, Minneapolis, MN. She worked as a licensed practical nurse at St. John's Hospital in Anderson. She was a member of Park Place Church of God, Anderson University Faculty Wives Club and a 20 year volunteer at the Christian Center. She published a book about her Finnish family. She also enjoyed writing letters of encouragement to people both near and far. Viola is survived by her nieces, Terry David Guthrie of Memphis, TN and Nancy David Rommell of Columbus, OH, along with several great-nieces and nephews, several cousins in Finland and dear friend, Judy Warner. She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, James R. Rees, son, David Rees, brother, Otto Waihela and her parents, Otto and Lempi Helin Waihela, immigrants from Finland. Cremation will take place with a Celebration of Life at a later date at Park Place Church of God. Memorial Contributions may be made to Park Place Church of God Food Pantry or the Christian Center. www.loosecares.com

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Vi was my first roommate in Bethel in 1939 I think. We became great, life-long friends. She had a great sense of humor and I loved hearing about her Finnish background. I got a letter from her six months ago. How can I get a copy of the book she wrote about her Finnish family? I would LOVE to read it. Sending best wishes to her family and friends. Alvera Mickelsen c/o The Episcopal Church Home 1879 Feronia Avenue, #217 St. Paul, MN 55104-3549 651-209-7465 Sending email c/o my daughter: Lynnellmick@gmail.com

Alvera Mickelsen - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ My dear "American grandma" Vi may not have had biological grandchildren, but she has been blessed with many adopted grandchildren. Students loved her and would sit at her feet, listening to her stories—and she was quite a storyteller. I was one of those students; God had looked down upon me and let me know of His care by giving me this angel of a neighbor. As a lonely international freshman, scared and far away from everything familiar, I was welcomed often into Vi's living room, where we would have dinner of soup and a chocolate chip cookie each for dessert. She would tell me about her childhood, of her native Finland, and of her late husband, her "beloved Jimmy," and her beloved son David. She had an amazing memory ... and it didn't dim as the years passed and as our dinner dates came to be held in the dining room of a nursing home. My family came to love her, too, and would visit her with me whenever they were on vacation in Anderson. Over the years, she has written us letters with funny inserts—the letters were painstakingly and impressively written with her old typewriter. Later on, when I had moved back to the country of Lebanon, she continued to send us letters, though now written by a nursing home staff. Her last letter was about the recent death of her son David and the amazing story of his life. Love and the celebration of life were evident in the letter and inserts. It has been a tremendous blessing to know one who has loved life and people with all her heart. Vi never really grew old but viewed life with perpetual childlike cheer and optimism. Grandma Vi, we love you and will greatly miss you. But by God's grace, may your example of genuine love and cheerful courage be a light that will never be extinguished. Love, Rhyse, Rurik, Tess, and Ruben Furio

Rhyse - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ Vi was a really wonderful person, whose kindness & friendliness was a personal blessing to me.

vaughn - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ i'm writing with great sadness. i was notified of Vi's passing today. she was a very dear friend I used to take her to see her husband at community northview everyday. I made sure she got to spend as much and more time i could give her to spend with james i would stop at the grand ave. bridge so Vi could see the ducks. Vi would take great delight in doing so. i loved her laugh and smile Vi was a great friend and always seemed to live life with determination and grace. she has a great sense of humor.i will always remember Vi for being stong,kindness and caring ways and that Vi smile that everyone loved god bless you Vi thank you for being my friendlove mike

mike and jane white - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ I could count on Vi for support during difficult times. Her support and encouragement helped me through my doctorate studies at Anderson University. She was such a gift.

Leo Gabriel - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Vi was a delight, and such an encouragement to me when I was a new, young pastor! Two things I remember: she told me after her husband died that sometimes when she was alone she would turn on the music and dance through her house, and it made her feel better! And, talking about sharing Jesus with others, she said, "You can't give someone a gift they refuse to take." That has stuck with me and helped me realize that my only responsibility was to share Jesus, and give others the freedom to choose to believe. What joy she must be experiencing now!

Jennifer Talbot - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *I was very sorry to hear about the passing of Vi Rees. I only knew her for a short time, but she was a very nice lady and I am glad I got to know her. May she rest in peace.*

Kim Salyer - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM