



Emma Lou Pehrson Kirkham

July 17, 1933 - March 6, 2014

Emma Lou Pehrson Kirkham, age 80, returned home on March 6th, 2014. She was surrounded by her loving family and they stood vigil over her with great tenderness as the angels gently lifted her spirit into the heavenly hands of her Savior.

Emma was born on July 17, 1933, to her goodly parents, Sydney Pehrson and Sarah Delvora Gurney Pehrson. She was blessed with great beauty, even as a child, and she loved and was loved by everyone she ever met. She grew up on a farm/ranch in Vernon, Ut. where she had a wonderful childhood with lots of fun and hard work on the family potato farm. Her mother taught her how to cook and she excelled above and beyond with this talent for the remainder of her life.

She attended Vernon elementary, and Tooele High, and graduated from Tintic High School in Eureka, Ut. where she was a Senior class officer. Emma was very well liked by all for her friendly and outgoing personality.

She met her future husband, Doug Kirkham and they married on Aug. 28, 1957 in the Salt Lake Temple. They lived in Salt Lake City for a short time, and then moved to Farmington, Utah, where they raised their six children.

Being a mother was central in Emma's life and she was a constant example of Christ, which was especially evident in the nurturing of her family. Life is about choices, and Emma humbly made the right choices, choosing to live each day with joy and unconditional love. If you met Emma, then you were blessed to feel the Saviors love. She never said an unkind word and loved others the way the Savior did, unconditionally, and without hesitation.

She chose to have six children and they were born to a mother who cherished them and their differences. She was a constant example of love and guidance, and each child felt that they were secretly their mother's favorite. Her grandchildren were also blessed with her never ending love and she constantly kissed and hugged them at every opportunity.

Emma was an exceptional cook and baker, and she was known far and wide for her amazing pies, cakes, cookies, and cinnamon rolls, even opening her own pie shop in Farmington during the early 1980's. She also worked at the Lion House restaurant in Salt Lake City, and the Heidelberg restaurant in Farmington, where she cooked and prepared wonderful food. There was a constant stream of amazing meals and deserts that came from her home and went to anyone in need. She was incredibly charitable, and her children watched and learned from their mother.

Emma was a woman of great faith. She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and happily chose to spend her days in constant service to others. She magnified every calling, serving as Relief Society President, temple worker, and a myriad of other auxiliary positions. She had an exceptional testimony of her Savior, Jesus Christ and found strength in her love of him.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her half brothers Bryant and John Pehrson , her half sister Elaine Bitner and her sister Lois Gattung.

She is survived by her husband, Douglas Kirkham Sr., her siblings, Jacqueline Pehrson, Clayton and (Erla) Pehrson, Eric and (Darlene) Pehrson, Sydney and (Tiiu) Pehrson, Linda and (Jim) Ekker, and Vicki Jo and (John)Smekens, and her children, Julie and (Rick) Nielson, Douglas and (Laurel) Kirkham, Richard and (Tina) Kirkham, Scott Kirkham and (Wesley Beard), Steven Kirkham, Curtis and (Carol) Kirkham, 20 grandchildren and 3 and ½ great grandchildren.

Friends and family may pay their respects at Farmington Compton Bench Chapel, 900 N. 300 W., Compton Road, Farmington, Ut., either Wednesday, March 12, 2014, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m ,or Thursday, March 13th at 10:00 a.m.. followed by services beginning at 11:00 am.

Interment, Farmington City Cemetery.

Mother, we will miss you more than we can ever say, but we are comforted in the knowledge that we will be together again, and we will honor your legacy by being joyful in our lives and serving others with unconditional love.

Cemetery

Farmington City Cemetery

200 E 500 S

Farmington, UT,

Events

MAR 12 **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Farmington Compton Bench Chapel

900 N 300 W Compton RD, Farmington, UT, US

MAR 13 **Viewing** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

Farmington Compton Bench Chapel

900 N 300 W Compton RD, Farmington, UT, US

MAR 13 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Farmington Compton Bench Chapel

900 N 300 W Compton RD, Farmington, UT, US

Comments



“ My deepest condolence to my old friend Doug. We will all miss his beautiful wife who was born 5 days after me. The two of them were such wonderful friends in my short 11 years in Bountiful. I never knew finer people.

Horace Smith

Horace Smith - March 22, 2014 at 07:06 AM



“ Memories of Emma Lou: Many years ago and several months after my last child was born, Emma unexpectedly dropped off a strawberry pie, I did not know her very well at the time but, I was impressed with her thoughtfulness. When I think of Emma, I remember Sister Burch's Relief Society lesson: she said she learned from her sister that life is about learning to love. Emma learned that lesson well as she loved everyone. My neighbor/friend, Collin Cluff, said of Emma "she is my second mother, she watched over me when I was young.”

My most special memories of Emma are when we went to the temple together. I always felt at ease with her and so enjoyed being with her. I am missing Emma and love her. My prayers and thoughts are with the Kirkham family - Doug, Julie, Doug, Richard, Steven, Scott, Curtis and her brother Clayton. Gail Burningham

Gail Burningham - March 12, 2014 at 10:59 PM



“ Emma Lou was a saint in every sense of the word. My children were her children and her children were mine. I always knew my children were safe if they were in her line of vision. Love you Emmy Lou. You'll be missed by all. Charlene Wolfe

Charlene Wolfe - March 12, 2014 at 04:13 PM



“ I was surprised and very saddened to learn of the passing of Emma Lou Kirkham, my wonderful across-the-street neighbor. She was authentically one of my favorite people in the Farmington community...always a joy to see. I very much enjoyed the many chats we had over the decades. She had a wry humor, a wise practical outlook, and was, to me without fail, good natured, friendly and kind. Having gone to a better place notwithstanding, I'll miss her, as will so many, in the here and now. It's hard to realize that she's gone from our midst. Emma Lou's printed obituary contained many superlatives about her character and nature. I'm prepared to believe all of them. She really was a fine person, and beloved pillar of the community. Sincere condolences to the family and loved ones, and to Emma, my friend...Godspeed. Dave Rowland--- one of your many Farmington neighbors.

Dave Rowland - March 12, 2014 at 02:28 PM



“ My Heart is very heavy today with the news of Emma. She was not only a wonderful and beautiful mother to her children but also to all of us kids who grew up around her. She taught me how to cook and I believe she also taught me how to be a caring and compasionet man and father. My condolences to all my good friends in the Kirkham clan and I am with you today in prayer and in my thoughts at this time in your lifes. Love and miss you always.

God bless you all

Mark Taylor
Canon City, Colorado

Mark Taylor - March 12, 2014 at 01:44 PM



“ Emma Lou, how she will be missed! She was an angel on earth and was so loving to her family, friends and all she met. My husband, Charles Johnson (Belva Gurney) and Emma (Delvora) are first cousins. We would see each other at reunions in the park and feel such a love for one another. When Aunt Del was still with us she would sing,"I have a testimony.". The joy of that testimony radiated in Aunt Del and in Emma.too. My heart goes out to all of the family. We know that we will see her again but yet we so miss those that have gone on. God bless all of you.. Love, Ellie (Eleanor L. Johnson) and family

Eleanor L. Johnson - March 11, 2014 at 11:59 AM



“ Emma and I met in 1975 when she was the RS president of the then 6th Ward. We had just moved to Farmington and I was going to RS. She met me in the hall, put her arms around me and welcomed me in her usual warm way saying, "Welcome, Dahlin (not darling). Would you tend our nursery today?" Of course I was glad to do it. We have laughed often about that moment. I will miss her positive way. She never spoke ill of anyone, never gossiped and helped me in many ways. She truly was my friend and I looked at her as a sister. There is joy in Heaven over her return and reuniting with especially her dear mother. To her family I send my love and pray that you will be comforted as you grieve.

Karin Olsen

PS. My husband and our whole family send their condolences too.

Karin A. Olsen - March 11, 2014 at 11:58 AM



“ Emma Lou was a beautiful lady and a special cousin to my husband, Grant Johnson. She was a delight to talk to and made the Pehrson family reunions a fun event. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Vicki Johnson - March 10, 2014 at 12:28 PM



“ How sad to read this notice. It has been years since Em and Doug and I have visited. Please know you each are in my thoughts, we of the extended Kirkham families will hold you dearly as long as you grieve this great loss.

Ked Kirkham - March 09, 2014 at 10:22 PM



“ Emma was truly a beautiful woman not only in appearance but in personality. We lived across the road from her for over 25 years. Our children were best friends with her children. I never saw her when she was unhappy, she was a joyful sweet woman.

Dixon Ford

Dixon Ford - August 23 at 12:09 AM