



Vendla Zollinger Nilson

February 4, 1922 - February 5, 2024

Vendla Zollinger Nilson passed away peacefully at her home on February 5, 2024, in Oregon City, Oregon, at the age of 102 and one day.

Vendla is survived by her nine children: Bruce (Janice), Larry (Jenny), Kristy (Alvin), Susan (Craig), Rex (Torri), Kym (Ann), Glendon (Rae Ann), Laurie (Dan) and Todd (Jill) and over 130 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Claude Stirland Nilson on February 6, 1993 and son-in-law Alvin Hiatt, grandson Samuel Nilson, granddaughter Melia McVay, great granddaughter Maddie Joi, her parents and brothers and sisters.

Vendla was born on February 4, 1922, ninth of 11 children, to Joseph Hyrum Zollinger and Laura Aikele Zollinger in Providence, Utah. She graduated from South Cache High School in 1940. She attended Utah State Agricultural College. She married Claude Stirland Nilson (Mr. Nilson as he was affectionately called) on July 3, 1946. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Portland, Oregon. Vendla worked for several companies, the longest being the Mill End Store where she was a buyer in the Bridal Department for several years and traveled twice to Belgium on lace buying excursions.

Vendla was passionate about life. She loved flowers and trees, fabrics and sewing and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She loved to

travel and went all over the United States and several countries, including Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, England, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Scandinavia and China. In all, she went on nine cruises, nine trips to Europe and Asia, countless trips across the US and over one hundred trips to Utah. She said she loved being with her family, 'the best and greatest blessing of her life'.

Vendla was the Providence Rodeo Queen in 1943 and the Providence War Bond Queen in 1945. She worked at Hill Air Force Base in Utah in 1944 and was her Dad's farmhand after she left Hill Field. Vendla always looked beautiful wherever she went, with her hair being a main concern. She also took part in the community by providing voting booths in her home in Portland, along with counting the votes. Vendla was very patriotic, loved America and believed everyone should fly the American flag, regularly checking with kids and grandkids to make sure they were in compliance.

Vendla was a 'Thank You Note' queen. She sent out thousands in her lifetime. One would get a super sweet note for the smallest gift or gesture, addressing it to 'Special, My Special One or Ones'.

Vendla loved the Gospel and was a devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She served in several callings, including 10 years as Primary President. She also served several years in the Portland Oregon Temple and loved her work there. She was a missionary for three months in Fresno, California in 2001 and 2002 with her good friend, Floy Harley. Her calling card and favorite saying in life was, 'If you do what's right, the Lord will bless you' and later in life it was 'You'll get your reward in heaven'.

The family would like to especially thank her daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Dan Burke and their family, for all of their amazing, loving years of kindness and service, helping her to have a most blessed and wonderful life. We also want to thank the incredible Hospice team from Accent Care.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Oregon City Church of Jesus Christ of LDS
15344 Henrici Rd.
Oregon City, OR

Viewing

FEB 17. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
14340 Donovan Rd
Oregon City , OR 97045

Funeral

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
14340 Donovan Rd
Oregon City , OR 97045

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.



February 16, 2024 at 04:44 PM



“ Bruce & Mary VanDyke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.

Bruce & Mary VanDyke - February 16, 2024 at 04:44 PM



“ Oregon City 1st Ward Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.



Oregon City 1st Ward Family - February 16, 2024 at 02:38 PM



“ Oregon City 1st Ward Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.

Oregon City 1st Ward Family - February 16, 2024 at 02:38 PM

FJ

“ From your cousins the Johnsons purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.



From your cousins the Johnsons - February 16, 2024 at 01:13 PM

FJ

“ From your cousins the Johnsons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.

From your cousins the Johnsons - February 16, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.



February 16, 2024 at 10:15 AM

LF

“ Love, Websters and Franks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.

Love, Websters and Franks - February 16, 2024 at 10:15 AM

KF

“ Karen & Jon Stoutenburg & Baier Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.



Karen & Jon Stoutenburg & Baier Family - February 16, 2024 at 07:58 AM

EG

“ Grandma was a very great person and we loved her very much 💖

Emmilia Garner 🍷 - February 09, 2024 at 07:58 PM

NB

“ Nancy B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.

Nancy B. - February 08, 2024 at 10:31 PM

KJ

“ Kamie, Sanna, Lance, Natalie, Dana Johnson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Vendla Zollinger Nilson.



Kamie, Sanna, Lance, Natalie, Dana Johnson - February 08, 2024 at 04:40 PM

JG

“ So wonderful!!! I'm so grateful to have known and loved this great woman!!! Best grandma ever a kid could ask for!!! Love you grandma!!!

Jordan Griffeth - February 08, 2024 at 04:17 PM

TG

“Grandma is likely the kind of person heaven consists of. So kind and loving, with a heart that loved and sought goodness. I will always remember her encouragements - from, “when you become a man you throw away childish things” - (a reference to my rather prodigious starwars toy collection) - to, “if you’re righteous and you do what you’re supposed to do the Lord will bless you and you’ll have a happy life”. - and she made you believe you could do it! Always using adjectives like beautiful and good and talented to describe us - her grand and great grand children. Her loss is deeply felt and I hope to be able to follow her consistent chiding to do righteousness and have a glorious reunion with her someday in the Kingdom. Love you Grandma!!!

Tyler Griffeth - February 08, 2024 at 04:08 PM

JG

“Grandma Nilson is a light in a dark world. Everywhere she went she brought hope, joy and love. She was truly an elect woman and I am blessed to be part of her large posterity. I will never forget her laugh and her warm words of encouragement. She will be missed.

Love - Josh Griffeth

Joshua Griffeth - February 08, 2024 at 03:34 PM

AG

*Grandma Nilson welcomed me into her family and always made me feel special and loved. We fly a flag 365 days of the year because of her. I love you grandma. Until we meet again.
Aubri Griffeth*

Aubri Griffeth - February 08, 2024 at 03:54 PM