



Esther M. Phelps

MAY 16, 2014



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Esther M. Phelps

MAY 16, 2014

It is with great sadness that the family of Esther M. (Hansen) Phelps, wife of the late Floyd W. Phelps, announces her passing on May 16, 2014 surrounded by her family's love. She was born in her parent's home in Willington on July 6, 1913 to Hans Hansen Jr. and Eleanor DeWolf Hansen (Bowler). She lived all of her life in Willington. She was predeceased by her sister, Hazel. Esther was a graduate of Hall Memorial School in Willington, Windham High School and Willimantic Normal School, as a teacher. Esther was Teacher/Principal at Vernon County Home in Vernon CT. She taught 5th grade in Sharon, CT and 5th to 8th grade (in one room) at the Ridges School in Mansfield. She also taught at the one room original Center School in Willington. While teaching in Sharon, she was recognized by the state as having a model 5th grade classroom. Esther was very active and involved in her town. In 2007 she received the Willington's Citizen of the Year award, an honor she was very proud of. She was a member of the Republican Town Committee; a ten year member of the Board of Education; Willington's chairman of the Salvation Army and The March of Dimes for many years and Willington's chairman for fundraising when the original Johnson Memorial Hospital was remodeled. Esther was librarian for 10 years and library director for 12 years at Hall Memorial School's library. She was involved with the young People's Society for several years and was instrumental in creating the Willington Woman's Club. She had two Girl Scout troops in Willington; one in 1930 and the other in 1950. She was a faithful volunteer for 13 years at Willington Center School, being very proud that she could manage all the new office machines. Esther was a devoted, life-long member of The Federated Church of Willington. For many years she was a member of the Worship Committee; taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, serving for two years as director. For many years she accompanied the pastor every week to Lyon Manor to play the piano for their worship services. She often joked she has held every position in the



church except that of pastor. Esther was a member of the Willington Historical Society and the Senior Center. She was honored to be part of the Willington Scholarship Committee. Esther and her husband Floyd owned and operated Hansen's Store which later became Phelps Market, the family business. They were involved in the development of Phelps Plaza. She and Floyd reached out to everyone with their generosity and community spirit. She enjoyed playing the piano, reading and knitting (especially hats for babies in newborn units at hospitals). She and Floyd loved to travel and did so extensively. They also spent many Sunday evenings at the travelogs at the Bushnell. They enjoyed entertaining and lovingly maintained their home. Most of all, they enjoyed attending their grandchildren's band concerts, sporting events and school presentations. Esther loved and was devoted to her family. She is survived by three daughters, Patricia Lee and her husband Daniel Locke of Willington, Nancy Eleanor Johndrow of Ellington, and Janet Margaret Phelps and her friend Bob Damato of East Hartford. She was the proud grandmother of Kimberly Anne Panciera and her husband Jason of Youngsville, NC, David Phelps Johndrow and his wife Sharon of Ellington, Scott William Johndrow of Ellington, Jennifer Joy Jeffreys and her husband Marc of Willington, and Alison Paige Rufrano and her husband Anthony of Ashford. She leaves her beloved great grandchildren Kendall and Garrett Panciera, Macon, Eleanore, Jake and Luke Jeffreys, Katelin and Megan Johndrow, and Ava Rufrano. Esther was predeceased by Floyd Phelps her husband of 65 years, and a dear son-in-law, Kenneth Johndrow. She also leaves several nieces and nephews and many close friends including her neighbors Charlie and Cheryl Woodworth and John and Linda Howe. Esther was very fond of Bobbie Knight and always appreciated his kindness. Esther's family is very grateful for those who helped her remain in her own home as long as possible: Barbara Dion, Arlene Zelonka, Margaret Wierzbicka, Krystyna, and Lynn. They were not only her caregivers but also her friends. Her family wishes to express their sincere thank you to Dr. Carlson and his office staff for the many years of caring and to the staff at Woodlake at Tolland for the respectful and loving care that she received there. Her funeral will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2014, with a procession forming by 9 A.M. at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT, followed by



Obituary

Esther M. Phelps

a Church Service at 10 A.M. at the Federated Church of Willington at Willington Hill, 236 Tolland Turnpike, Willington, CT. Burial will follow in Willington Hill Cemetery, Willington, CT. Calling hours are on Friday from 5-8 P.M. at the funeral home.

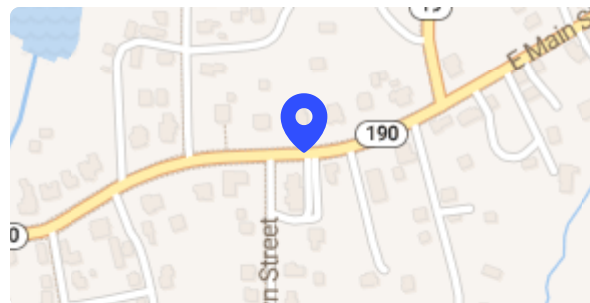
Memorial donations may be made to the Federated Church of Willington, 132 River Rd., Willington, CT 06279, or to the Woodlake Activity Fund, 26 Shenipsit Lake Rd., Tolland, CT 06084. For online condolences or directions, please visit:

www.introvignefuneralhome.com



Visitation

- Friday**, May 23, 2014
- 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
- Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc.**
51 East Main St., Stafford Springs CT 06076



Service

- Saturday**, May 24, 2014
- 10:00 AM ET
- Federated Church of Willington at Willington Hill**
236 Tolland Turnpike, Willington CT 06279



Cemetery Details

- Willington Hill Cemetery**
Tolland Turnpike, Willington CT 06279





Tribute Wall

Esther M. Phelps

EC

Eileen Colletti posted:

Sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. My brother and sister often think about the times of our youth in Willington with fond memories . You will all be in our thoughts and prayers.Eileen (Morsey) Colletti, Karen (Morsey) Reed , David Morsey

May 23 at 5:36 AM

CU

Connie Upton posted:

To the family of Mrs. Phelps - My heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your loved one. May precious memories always give you peace, comfort and strength. Connie Upton

May 22 at 3:13 PM

DL

Debbie Linares posted:

To All of Mrs. Phelps Family & Friends,I am so sorry to hear of your loss. She was a wonderful person, beautiful both inside and out. I will continue to see her and her loving and kind ways in all of her children's and grandchildren's faces and lives. She was an amazing woman and we were all truly blessed to have had her in our lives. Her legacy will continue to live on in her family. As you look back and cherish the special memories you have of her, may they bring you not only joy but comfort at this time and always. She will be forever missed. God's Blessings!My sincerest love and condolences, Debbie Linares

May 21 at 9:36 AM

LH

Lj & L Howe posted:

Esther was a dear friend. She will be missed by everyone who knew her for you could not know her without loving her. She was not only a good neighbor but more like a Mom who dispensed advice when needed and loved you unconditionally as she saw only your best side . We are pleased that she and Floyd will once again be together as she missed him greatly. With all our love, Linda and John

May 20 at 7:21 AM

SL

Sue Ladr posted:

So sorry to hear about your mom. She was a lovely lady.Sue Ladr

May 20 at 7:19 AM



Tribute Wall

Esther M. Phelps

DS

Dee Boutilier Sulenski posted:

My sincere condolences to the Phelps family. I have very fond childhood memories of, both, Mr. & Mrs. Phelps and their market. May she RIP and I wish comfort, peace & healing for her family and Willington. Dee Boutilier Sulenski (granddaughter of Alice Woodworth)

May 20 at 4:38 AM

LD

Lyne Devlin posted:

There is a time to let our elders go, but it will be with sorrow, with a sense of loss but always with love. Mrs. Phelps is one of those very blessed elders you will remember always..... I remember her father and his gentle way. I remember how very much he loved his children. I remember Ester's husband Floyd, What a character he was; he was always smiling. I remember their children. I remember Ester's laughter when a baby knocked the items off from the lower shelf in the store one day. I remember her joy, her smile, her gentle way. She was a beacon for the community of Willington. She was a teacher, a wife, a mother, a grandmother a dear, dear friend to so many of us. For years she and her family ran Phelp's Market. I remember when I was little, I got to pick a present from the Birthday Box when it was my birthday. A child never went hungry, The church the fire department, and the community were always supported, Holidays were always special because of the way the Phelps family gave without limitation. Now the Phelps children, and their children have grown and have created their own lives with their own families....All of Ester's family, all of us, we as a family, as a community, as dear friends, will take the lessons that this beautiful woman Ester Phelps gave to all of us and raise our children with. We have been taught the lesson of charity, the lesson of forgiveness, the lesson of kindness, The lesson of compassion, the lesson of keeping your word, the lesson of strength, the lesson of unconditional love... I will remember you Mrs Phelps for the rest of my days.... I wish her family peace, . I wish them laughter from the memories she gave . Blessed Be to all of you.

May 19 at 2:22 PM

SB

Sandra Bussiere posted:

It is with a heavy heart tonight that I learned of the passing of Mrs. Phelps. As a young girl when we moved to Willington, she was one of the first people we met at our new church. Always quick with a smile and kindness toward all. I could go on and on. I want her family to know I am thinking of you all with love tonight. It's never easy to loose your sweet Mom and Grama. Love and hugs to all.

May 18 at 5:38 PM



Tribute Wall

Esther M. Phelps

MB

Michelle Burns posted:

Our condolences on Esther's passing. She was a wonderful women and shall be missed. She was my Dads teacher at Center School and he always said she was an extraordinary teacher. She always remember his birthday and would call everyyear to wish him a Happy Birthday, right up until he passed away. You'll be missed Esther.Michelle, Richard, Michael and Kimberly Burns

May 18 at 4:43 PM

LL

Lisa Labenski posted:

So sorry to hear about Ester's passing. She was a wonderful lady who always showed kindness to me and my family.

May 18 at 3:53 PM

WK

Wendy Knight posted:

So sorry for your loss, she will be missed very much.Sending prayersRobin & Wendy Knight

May 18 at 3:28 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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