



## Estella Ann Richards

November 4, 1923 - November 16, 2020

"It is time for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race. I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:6-7

Estella died peacefully in her sleep from loneliness and natural causes. She had just celebrated her 97th birthday with some of the residents at Big Sky Senior Living and her son (Ernie) and daughter (Rena) with pandemic restrictions.

Mom was born in Butte, Montana on November 4, 1923 to Rena and John Jones. She had two brothers Thomas and Leslie Jones and also grew up with her mother's sister Mary Barker. I can only imagine the activity in that household knowing the personalities of her siblings.

Never having left Butte for more than a few months her heart belonged there. She had so many fascinating memories and was a walking history book of information and stories about the many characters that wove the fabric of Butte.

She married the love of her life Ernest Charles "Chuck" Richards on October 20, 1945. They celebrated 73 years of marriage, almost unheard of this day and age. Because Dad was in the Marines and was waiting to be discharged, they spent their first few months of marriage in San Diego. No longer a prisoner of her body I see them dancing in heaven to one of their favorite tunes New York, New York.

Mom spent her lifetime taking care of her family. Her daughter Rena was born

followed four years later by the birth of her son Ernie. It was important to her to keep a spotless home and to make sure that our clothes were clean, crisp, and ironed. Even though they lived frugally we never went without and there was no question that we were loved. She was a great cook and loved trying new recipes. There was always room at our table for our friends, for those who were alone, and extended family. When grandchildren came along, she adored them and loved spending time with them.

We learned from her what real courage and strength looked like. Even when she was in a great deal of pain, she was there for us offering encouragement when needed and celebrating our successes. While she would try our patience and could be a taskmaster, we knew in our heart that she wanted what was best for us.

A few of our lifetime of memories include enjoying her delicious pasties, her turkey dressing, the wonderful birthday cakes, the sight and smell of her garden flowers (sweet peas, nasturtiums, pansies, petunias, roses, and lilacs) quite a feat in Butte, our beautifully decorated Christmas trees, playing pinochle, and our daily conversations.

We would like to thank her PEO sisters, Chapter AC, who always remembered her with visits, phone calls, and flowers, those folks from the United Methodist church who visited her, gave her communion, and baked cookies, the workers and residents at Big Sky Senior Living who went out of their way to show her kindness and love, and the compassionate care of Senior Solutions Hospice.

Estella is survived by her two children Rena (Wayne) Bucher, Ernest Richards, as well as two grandchildren Timothy Mulette, Julie Mulette and a great grandson Kyle Mulette. Nieces and nephews include Jim Jones, Mary Anne Jones, Patty Armstrong, and Robert J. Jones and a cousin Paul Edwards.

Any memorials can be made to a charity of choice.

# Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Estella was beautiful inside and out. I'm so glad I got to know her and her amazing family when I worked at big sky senior living. I wish Ernie and Rena all the best and I'm so sorry for their loss. My thoughts and prayers are always with you and your family.* ”

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**MacKenna** - November 24, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ *Ernie, I remember your Mom keeping you in line at the shop. Well, probably not quite that way, but she was a friendly, gentle presence. Hope you are doing ok. It is extra tough in these Covid times. Take Care. The O'Briens, Bend, Oregon.* ”

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**Gerard O'Brien** - November 24, 2020 at 09:52 AM

CL

“ *What a life she lived! We always enjoyed visiting with Charlie and Estella. So sorry for your loss.*  
*Carol and Dave Lubick* ”

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**Carol and Dave Lubick** - November 24, 2020 at 09:04 AM

SM

“ *Shelly McLaughlin lit a candle in memory of Estella Ann Richards* ”



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**Shelly McLaughlin** - November 24, 2020 at 08:22 AM

SM

“ *Ernie and Rena, we are so sorry for your loss. We have many fond memories of your mom and dad and feel so fortunate to have had them as our neighbors for many years. They were so kind and always interested in our lives, asking about the kids and how everyone was doing. I loved that she would watch Wishbone and Matt, she called him Tiger, from her kitchen window. Truly the best people I will ever know. Rest easy Estell. ❤️ We will miss you. McLaughlin Family*

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**Shelly McLaughlin** - November 24, 2020 at 08:21 AM