



## Lena Marie Roth

September 25, 1919 - February 19, 2012

Lena Marie (Rufkahr) Roth was born in Foristell, MO on September 25, 1919. On February 19th 2012 the 35th anniversary of her son Joe's death, she went to heaven with Joe on one arm and her beloved husband, Larry, on the other. She grew up on a small farm in Missouri during the Depression. There were few modern conveniences and no luxuries, but she said, "We always had food on the table." Hard work, discipline, and honesty were cornerstones in her life. Lena had an older sister, Margaret, (deceased), and a younger brother, James, of St. Louis. She graduated valedictorian from high school, but was unable financially to continue her education. In her forties, Lena returned to school, attended Grossmont Community College and graduated with honors. She was passionate about learning, especially writing, and wrote and published a book about her son, Joe, and his courageous fight for life.

Lena married Lawrence Roth in 1940 and they settled in San Diego, CA where Larry was an aircraft supervisor for General Dynamics. They had 67 wonderful years together and had 3 sons, John of Oceanside, CA, Tom of Seattle, and Joe (deceased.) Lena loved her boys and made sure they grew up strong, sturdy and independent. She loved California and the outdoors and became a consummate gardener...always raising enough fruit and vegetables to feed an entire elementary school the right kind of lunch. She taught us all to love avocados. After retiring to Jerome, ID for 10 years, the Roth's moved to Wenatchee to be closer to their son, Tom and his wife, Kim (Hildebrand).

Lena had a keen competitive gene in her DNA that has been passed down 3 generations to her great-grandchildren. She enjoyed many sports events - especially those of her sons but the gene really showed up at the card table. She played duplicate bridge for many years and was very good at it. Lena took on public speaking as a challenge and became the highlight of holiday dinners with her memorable toasts. She and Larry adored their dancing years at Eagles and the Senior Center. While the Depression taught them frugality, the Roth's were extremely generous to people or programs in need. Lena deeply cherished the many friends in her life and especially those who stuck with her in her last years. The family will remain ever grateful to these special friends and caregivers.

Lena leaves behind her two sons and daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A woman of great integrity, moral fiber, and strength has left us, but her legacy remains.

A memorial service will be held Friday, March 2nd, at 1pm at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 625 So. Elliott, Wenatchee. Memorials may be made to St. Vincent de Paul, c/o St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

# Tribute Wall

MG

“ *There's a brightness that never knows a shadow,  
A morning that never knows a night,  
A happiness that never knows a sorrow  
In the loving warmth of Heaven's light.*

*Lena now is free from every sorrow,  
Free from every worry and all strife,  
Where there is peace and happiness unending  
Living with the Lord in a new life.*

*We will surly miss Lena but she will never be forgotten.*

*Maude*

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**Maude Gunn** - March 01, 2012 at 11:21 PM

SO

“ *I'm a better person today for having known both Lena and Larry. I'm sure anyone who came in contact with either one of them was moved by their goodness and strength of character. I will always cherish the time I had with them and they will live on in my heart for the rest of my life.*

*Please accept my sincere condolences.*

*I am currently recovering from surgery or I would have tried to attend the service.*

*Sam*

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**Sam Obitz** - March 01, 2012 at 02:05 AM