



Lillian Louise Dimke

April 5, 1926 - March 9, 2012

Lillian Louise Dimke, 85, our beloved angel, passed away on Friday morning, March 9, 2012 at Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee.

Lillian was born on April 5, 1926 in the town of Ludington, Wisconsin to the late George and Bertha (Knitter) Camastral. She was raised on the family farm and graduated from Augusta High School in 1944. She continued her education at Luther Hospital School of Nursing in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, graduating with the class of 1947. She also completed extra training at The Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston.

On June 6, 1948, Lillian along with her parents, sisters, and brother went on a family vacation to the Pacific Northwest. They traveled to Lewiston, Idaho to visit friends from June 11-16th. On June 16, Lillian applied for a nursing job at the Potlatch Forests, Inc. Clearwater Plant, now known as "Clearwater Paper Corporation". She accepted the job on June 29, 1948, as their first Industrial Registered Nurse. She continued working there for many years.

Lillian was honored in October, 1953 for her part in giving first aid at the scene of an automobile accident on the old spiral highway. The ceremony was inspired by a letter from a Rhode Island man whose son was one of the four students injured in the accident. A fifth student was killed. Lillian was one of the first to reach the scene, gave first aid which was credited with helping save lives. As in Lillian's quiet, gentle way, the family did not know about this honor until years later when a family member found the article in an old Lewiston Tribune.

On August 20, 1955 she was married to Joseph Howard "Joe" Dimke at Zion Lutheran Church in Seymour, Wisconsin. They made their home together in Clarkston.

In 1964, Lillian began working at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center until she retired in 1989. Lillian worked the night shift from 11pm-7am for 25 years, so she could spend more time with her family during the day. She was looked to in the wee hours of the night as someone to turn to and depend on for advice and leadership. In her quiet manner, Lillian imported strength, confidence and caring.

Lillian was a longtime active member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lewiston. She also volunteered for many years at the Asotin County Library delivering books to the shut-ins, she was involved in the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Organization X, (a women's group helping others). She especially enjoyed spending time with her family, golfing and playing cards, especially Gin, with Joe. They had an on-going score card that continued for years.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Joseph H. "Joe" Dimke, Clarkston, WA; three daughters and sons-in-laws, Pam and Wes Albright, Spokane, WA, Lorri and Dan Hally, Clarkston, WA and Stephanie and Bob Baker, East Wenatchee, two sisters and one brother-in-law, Lila Murphy, Las Vegas, NV and Lorraine and Alan Schultz, Malone, WI; eleven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Cheryl Brown, one brother, Larry Camastral and one infant brother, Lawrence.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 31st at 1:00 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 920 8th Ave., Lewiston, Idaho. Memorial donations may be made in care of St. Joseph's Foundation towards the Carondelet House. You are invited to visit her tribute online and leave a memory for the family at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com. Arrangements are assisted by Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

BL

“ Dear Joe and Dimke girls,
What a wonderful woman Lillian was. So full of light and fun. I have the best memories of Lillian, her sister Lila and Cheryl visiting me in Wengen, Switzerland when I worked as a bartender at a hotel in a carless village at the top of the Alps. The Dimke gang quickly made friends with the Swiss people of the village and embraced their customs. Lillian, by herself, joined a Swiss farmer and his herd of cows decorated with the fancy Swiss bells and escorted the animals down to a lower pasture for the winter. This meant she had to hike DOWN an entire Alp then back UP! She was gone for 8 hours and was so excited to have an authentic Swiss experience. Knowing Lillian was a precious gift to me. I hope she and Cheryl are relaxing on a comfy cloud in heaven right now.

Beth Lisaius - July 08, 2012 at 03:47 PM

AM

“ Having lost my own mother at an early age, I always counted Lillian as a very special "extra" mom. Whenever I was at her house visiting her daughters, Lillian always made me feel right at home. She was so knowledgeable and kind, and steady. My heart is with her daughters and her husband Joe.

Anne McQuary - April 08, 2012 at 11:41 PM

MS

“ Thank you Lillian, for being a wonderful mother and role model for girls and young women everywhere. Your smile and comforting eyes always made for a brighter day. Heaven welcomes beautiful souls, such as you.

Melanie Bartlett Stellmon - March 30, 2012 at 01:49 AM

BM

“ *Lillian was like an angel on the night shift!
When I was a new nurse, she would arrive just when you needed her, gently share her wisdom, and calm the chaos.
She was respected by all and I will forever have a special place in my heart for her. Thank you Lillian - you are in heaven with the Lord telling you "well done" - a loving nurse, mentor, mother, wife, and community member. Sending my love and hugs to your family.*

Brenda McIntosh - March 24, 2012 at 02:11 AM

PJ

“ *I also was a new nurse working the night shift at St. Joseph's. The only difference was I had known Lillian for years through my cousin Trish. People have mentioned her calm demeanor, and I echo that. When multiple traumas would come into the Emergency Room, we were oh so happy to see Lillian walk end to lend a hand. One of the great nurses who has molded my career and practice.*

Peter Johnson - March 21, 2012 at 06:47 AM

JL

“ *Very sorry for the loss of your mother. I got to know her playing golf at the country club. She was always so happy and had a beautiful smile. When I met Lillian I had small children and she would always tell me to enjoy my days with them because will go so fast and before you know it they will be grown. I will remember Lillian as the kind and gentle person she was. Again, so sorry to all of you at this difficult time.*

Jean Larson - March 19, 2012 at 07:23 PM

JB

“ I read of Lillian's death with sadness. When I was a new nurse in the early 1980s, she was "my" supervisor on night shift. I knew I could call on her anytime I faced a situation that was new, or tricky in any way, and she would calmly help me solve it. She always encouraged and guided in ways that inspired confidence and encouraged professional growth. I am proud to have been her colleague.

My heartfelt sympathy to you, her family and friends who feel her absence so keenly. I pray you will find peace and comfort as you live each day, and find hope and joy in each other in the years to come.

Judy Browning - March 18, 2012 at 10:16 PM

PU

“ I am so sorry to hear of Lillian's passing. She was such a dear person who treated all very well. I remember being a new nurse without much confidence working the night shift. Lillian, who had so much experience, was so encouraging. Her gentle way of teaching a skill, or just giving encouragement meant so much. Even in difficult situations, she stayed calm and kept things running smoothly. She was an inspiration to so many nurses and an asset to the profession of nursing. This world has lost a very special person. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Patty McClain Urquhart - March 18, 2012 at 06:34 PM

AS

“ Hi Joe, Sorry to hear about the wife , hope you are doing fine, hope to see you soon, my condolences to all the family, Al

Al Stockwell - March 18, 2012 at 04:15 PM

SD

“ My heart goes out to the entire Joe Dimke family. My dear friend Pam, I have always regarded your mother as one of the most grace-filled persons I've ever known. It was through you, of course, that I met her, and I always saw so much of her in each of you, her daughters. In this time of sorrow and loss, may God comfort your whole family with cherished memories of the past and hopeful promises of a glorious reunion. In the meantime, may our Lord bless you with his loving presence, the reminder that He knows and He cares: "He bottles all our tears" (Psalm 56:8). Pam, I wish I could be there right now to give you a hug, but since I cannot, I pray that the Lord finds a way to hug you on my behalf. Much love to you and yours, Sharon

Sharon Johnson Donohue - March 18, 2012 at 04:13 PM

WF

“ Our deepest condolences to Joe and all the family, she was a grand lady, a great nurse and humanitarian, she will be missed, hugs to all the kids , grandkids,and greats, its always the hardest for them. we may see you at the service, if possible, Smitty is having his own health issues. so its one day at a time. God Bless, Smitty , Charlotte and family.

Warren (Smitty) and Charlotte Smith and family - March 18, 2012 at 03:42 PM

RG

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Lillian's passing. I remember that gentle smile that was always there to greet me on my visits back to Trinity, along with the gentle command to "give me a hug." Lillian was a tremendous supporter of my attending seminary. I know she loved her family very much. I remember many discussions around the status of our golf games. I also have some faded memories of growing up with the family at Trinity. She took care of my dad at Potlatch on more than one occasion as the company nurse. May the sure and certain hope of the resurrection bring you peace in this time of loss and may God hold you in the palm of his hand. I will always smile when I remember our humble, honorable friend. Go with God, you saint of the Lord.

Rev. Craig Groseclose - March 18, 2012 at 07:26 AM