



## Norma Alice Smethers

March 22, 1922 - December 22, 2013

Norma Alice (Ping) Smethers was born March 22, 1922 in Rock Island, WA to an early Washington State pioneer family, J. H. "Jink" & Lela (Sperline) Ping. She and her younger siblings, brother, Robert and sister, Beverly (Morrison), helped out their parents on their small farm & orchard. Growing up during the Great Depression, life was hard for them, but they made do with what little they had, and money earned working in the Apple packing sheds. She told of having to use an outhouse, as they had no indoor plumbing. A favorite story of hers was that she, as the oldest kid, had to get up early in the mornings to light a fire in the woodstove. She said as the house warmed, her pet goldfish, after being half frozen, would start swimming again! Norma's whole nature was doing for others, and she did so consistently and unselfishly throughout her life. She brightened the lives of all who knew her. She graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1940, and that year was named Princess Rock Island for the Apple Blossom festival.

After high school, Norma moved to California to live with her Aunt and Uncle. Jobs in military related fields were plentiful there, and she soon found a job at Northrop Aircraft. It was while there, that she met the love of her life, Robert "Bob" Smethers. They married in 1942 and settled in the Los Angeles area, where Bob joined the Army. First born son, James Randall, was born while there. After Bob was released from the military, the family moved to Wenatchee, WA where son Greg and daughter Cindy were born. Bob was a loan officer for a bank, and job opportunities took the family from Wenatchee

to Ephrata, Walla Walla & then to Othello, where Bob owned and managed his own company, a small loan office. Norma was not only a great cook & homemaker, but also a seamstress extraordinaire. She spent many many hours at her sewing machine, where she not only mended & sewed clothes for her own family, but also for half of the kid's friends too. Bob was very active in the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, as well as a big booster of all the local sports teams. Daughter Lori was born in Othello & the family was complete. In 1967, they moved back to Wenatchee. Here Norma worked in the Fabric department at JC Penney for 10 years. Bob earned his Real Estate license, and was very successful working for several Wenatchee offices. Norma was preceded in death by her husband Bob; brother, Robert and sister, Beverly.

She is survived by her children, Ran, Greg & Lori of Wenatchee, and Cindy of Othello; 12 grandchildren & six great-grandchildren. Those of us fortunate enough to have known Norma will never forget her beauty, her sweet personality, her unbelievably selfless nature, her love of all things "Pink" and oh, THAT SM

We thought of you with love today  
but that is nothing new  
We thought about you yesterday  
and days before that too

We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name  
All we have are memories  
and your picture in a frame

Your memory is our keepsake  
with which we'll never part  
God has you in His keeping  
We have you in our hearts

A Memorial gathering for Norma will be held later in the spring (April or May). Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

# Tribute Wall

KB

“ *From as far back as I remember my auntie watched out for me. She hugged me, loved me, fed me, and accepted me just as I was. She understood. She sewed nearly all of my formals and carefully fitted them to me. I consider these acts of loving-kindness. She accepted Bill and laughed and kidded him...he felt like part of the family when we were at Bob and Norma's. We will always love you, aunt Norma.*

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**Kathy & Bill** - January 11, 2014 at 01:56 PM