



Violet Marie Tefft

November 21, 1918 - May 17, 2020

Violet Marie (Skou) Tefft

Violet Tefft passed away peacefully of natural causes at The Gardens Nursing home in St. Paul, MN on May 17, 2020, at the age of 101.

Vi is survived by her children Jolene deKeyser (Chuck) of Issaquah, WA, Jerry Tefft (Grant) of St. Paul, MN and Jennifer Williams (Dan) of Fort Collins, CO; grandchildren Jon Bunnett (Melanie), Ted deKeyser, Nicolas deKeyser (Christine), Tyra Kleppen (Alex), Eric Kleppen (Kristen), Carrie Swails (Nick), Andy Williams (Michaelyn) and 6 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years William Howard "Howie" Tefft; parents, Carrie Marie and Peter Pedersen Skou, as well as her 7 siblings and their spouses. Burial will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Due to the pandemic, a life celebration will be scheduled for a later date. Further memories and a guest book are provided at <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/>.

Violet was born November 21, 1918 in Luck, WI during the Spanish Flu pandemic, and graduated from Luck High School. As a young woman she worked at a bakery in Luck until she moved to Minneapolis. Vi loved to dance. She went to many community dances where she saw Howie before actually meeting him. He always had an eye out for the best dancers in the room and

she was one of them. Although they had seen each other at dances before, she finally met Howie on a bus on the way to a dance. They married in July 1941 and by April of '42 Howie was off to war in France for 3 ½ years. They started their family later than planned once he got back home to Minnesota. Vi was a caring wife and loving mother for many years. She grew a huge garden each summer, canning and making pickles, and in the winter, she would turn that garden into a skating rink for her kids. She loved volunteering with the women's circles at her church and found fulfillment helping people she knew who needed physical help or a shoulder to lean on.

Her family remembers her as a person who taught them many wonderful things about life. She set an example for how to be a wonderful neighbor. She kept family traditions alive through meals and recipes. Her grandchildren couldn't wait for her to make Aebleskiver or her apple pie. She kept many family photographs during a time when photography wasn't as easily accessible. This instilled a love of stories, genealogy, and photography. Late in her life you could still find her working in the garden, reading, or creating things. She taught her family a love of the arts. Her memory, laughter, and stories will be missed by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ We worked together at the bakery in Federic, and I have so many good memories of Vi and of her mother. I just found out about her death and wanted to pass along my condolences. She had a wonderful laugh and I enjoyed seeing her last November in an unannounced visit. She recognized me immediately despite it being many years since we had met. I think of her often and fondly.

Delores Melquist (written by her daughter, Cheryl)

Cheryl Melquist-Kahl - September 12, 2020 at 06:19 PM

MM

“ Mary Ann Martin lit a candle in memory of Violet Marie Tefft



Mary Ann Martin - June 05, 2020 at 05:51 PM

MM

I'll miss our Wednesday morning visits, her laugh, stories, creative paintings, crafts, poems. She was a remarkable person. Rest in Peace Violet.

Mary Ann Martin - June 05, 2020 at 06:05 PM

SW

“ Every Sunday for a few years, I would pick up Vi and our friends, Eva and Millie, and drive them to The Moose Club in Maplewood for an afternoon of dancing. We drove to many dances on other days, too. She would often bring the best-tasting treats.

Vi gave me many lovely clothes on and off, too- -when people asked me where I got them, I answered "Vi's Closet". They would always ask where it was, and I'd point to Vi. What a lovely, lovely lady and dear friend. Much Love

Sherrill Werre - June 2 @ 6:30 P.M.

SHERRILL WERRE - June 02, 2020 at 07:32 PM

PK

“ So sorry for your loss. She was a grand lady. She took me to buy my First communion dress And later in life she made my wedding dress. She was so sweet and always willing to help us in any way she could. I loved her baking. She is at home now in heaven with Jesus and Howie

Love to you all

Patty (Martin) kuzyk

patty (martin) kuzyk - May 31, 2020 at 12:06 AM

JH

Our deepest sympathy to the family.
Pete & Judy Hendricks

Judy Hendricks - May 31, 2020 at 08:45 AM

JP

So sorry for your loss. She was the best next door neighbor ever. I loved her chocolate chip cookies and I have her recipe. Thinking of you all and will keep you in my prayers.

Jeanne (Martin) Pearson

Jeanne Martin Pearson - May 31, 2020 at 01:44 PM