



Marcella E. Phegley

October 14, 1922 - September 17, 2008

Marcella E. Phegley, 85, entered into rest on September 17, 2008 at 5:55 AM. She had been in failing health for the past 5 months. She was the widow of well-respected NAPA Auto Parts owner, Byrom J. (BJ) Phegley.

Born , Marcella E. Eldridge, October 14, 1922, in Rensselaer, she was the daughter of Thomas and Marguerite Eldridge. One of twelve children, her formative years were spent on the family homestead relaxing and reading while sitting in her favorite tree. She worked for several years at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer and then as an Allen County Military court reporter. On September 21, 1951, she was united in marriage to B.J. Phegley in Crown Point, IN. They made their first home in Rensselaer later moving to Monticello, and finally settling in Bluffton in 1957. Mr. Phegley owned and operated NAPA Auto Parts in Bluffton and soon after opened a second store in Decatur. Mr. Phegley died August 23, 1984. Their sons carried on the family business, owning NAPA Auto Parts stores, Noel in Columbia City and Mark in Decatur and Monroeville.

Mrs. Phegley's memberships included: First United Methodist Church where she served as the church hostess for 27 years coordinating craft bazaars and church dinners, United Methodist Women where she held several offices, Tri Kappa Alpha Associates, Bay View Reading Club, and recently became active in The Painting Group. Over the years, she received several awards for her artistic creativity. She also enjoyed playing Bridge and Kings in the Corners with her friends and grandchildren.

In 1987, she was the Chairwoman for the Sesquicentennial of Wells County, later receiving Wells County Woman of the Year for her outstanding efforts. She was also known for her culinary talents from cookie trays to prom dinners in Wells County.

She is survived by two sons: Noel B. (Gloria) Phegley of Columbia City and Mark R. (Julie) Phegley of Decatur, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Surviving siblings include: Clara (Ray) Nitzschke of Valencia, CA, Nancy (LaVerne) Meyer, Ardis (Jay) Critser, Jack (Janice) Eldridge all of Rensselaer.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Visitation

SEP **18.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Service

SEP **19.** 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Marcella E. Phegley*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - September 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marcella E. Phegley*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your dear Mother's passing. She was beautiful on the outside, but even more beautiful on the inside. We had purchased some acreage from her many years ago, and when I would deliver the annual payment, she would always have me for tea and special goodies. She was a very gracious woman, as you already know. She would always tell me about you and especially the grandchildren. Now she can meet her special B.J. God Bless you all!###imported-begin##Bob & Mary Jo Troxel###imported-end##*

September 22, 2008 at 01:21 PM



“ NOEL AND MARK THINKING OF YOU DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. MAY YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH WARM THOUGHTS AND TREASURED MOMENTS OF YOUR MOTHER.
YOUR FRIENDS ALWAYS
GODS SPEED
ROSIE AND JANET##imported-begin##ROSALIE & JANET
HURD##imported-end##

September 20, 2008 at 09:49 AM



“ NOEL, MARK & FAMILY##imported-begin##ROSALIE & JANET
HURD##imported-end##

September 20, 2008 at 09:44 AM



“ Noel & Mark,
Please accept our sympathies with the passing of your mom. Wow!
You guys have a neat legacy in your parents. I remember your mom
and dad supporting all of us in athletics.
Yours truly,
Carol and Mike Pettibone##imported-begin##Mike
Pettibone##imported-end##

September 19, 2008 at 03:30 PM



“ Julie and Mark,

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Mark's mother. It sounds like she was a lovely person.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jeff, Marilyn and Family##imported-begin##Jeff and Marilyn Hall##imported-end##

September 18, 2008 at 06:49 PM



“ Noel, Mark and families:

My love and prayers to you and yours during this time. Your mother was a very special person. May God continue to be present as you move forward in life's journey without mom. Again, my deepest sympathy and love to you.

Greg##imported-begin##Greg Meyer##imported-end##

September 18, 2008 at 12:51 PM



“ *My Aunt Marcella has always been a remarkable woman in my eyes. I have admired her my entire life and especially because of her positive outlook on life. She could always find the humor in life, which in my opinion is essential to living a wonderful life.*

I always admired her artistic abilities and loved to eat her home cooking and fancy cookies. She was the hostess with the mostest always. She has been a true inspiration to me and also to my girls. After spending the weekend with Aunt Marcella, my Caroline (9) never stopped talking about that visit. She loved Aunt Marcella. My oldest can carry on her artistic work with her drawings and paintings and they always also had that bond with their love of art and both being accomplished artists.

My Aunt Marcella was a class act. I just loved her dearly. We had many laughs and the world could sure use a million more Aunt Marcellas. Life is too short to not have fun and laugh and smile your way through it and she sure taught us that!!!! I know that she missed my Uncle BJ tremendously after he died, but she still made the very best of things for the duration of her life. That is also something to be said for her because none of us really know just how hard that probably was for her.

*She will be greatly missed by myself and my girls.
xoxoxoxox##imported-begin##Christy Combs-
Phegley##imported-end##*

September 18, 2008 at 09:44 AM