



Fern Ashcroft Merrill

June 22, 1920 - February 25, 2020

Fern Ashcroft Merrill passed away on Feb. 25 at her home in Mesa, Arizona, at the age of 99. She was born June 22, 1920, in Ramah, New Mexico. She leaves 5 children, 30 grandchildren and 86 great-grandchildren who all love her dearly. Fern grew up in Eagar, Arizona, and attended Gila Jr. College (now Eastern Arizona Jr. College) in Thatcher where she met her husband, Philemon Roy Merrill (Phil or Chick) who preceded her in death on June 3, 2003. She was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many positions throughout her life, including music (singing, piano, organ), leadership and teacher. Others preceding her in death were her parents (Paris Ira Ashcroft and Rachel Butler), two sisters (Maurine White and Bonnie Jackson), and a grandson (Jason Merrill). Surviving her are her children Jeanne (Bill) Goodman, DeAnn (Tony) Johnson, Phil (Ruth) Merrill, Marilyn (Alex) Bigney, Tim (Sue) Merrill; a sister Mary Crosby of St. George, Utah; brothers Henry and Ronald Ashcroft of Mesa, and Rulon Ashcroft of Pleasant View, Utah. Funeral Services will be Saturday, Feb. 29, at 11 a.m. with a viewing at 10 a.m. at the L.D.S. Meetinghouse at 5620 E. Adobe St., Mesa. There will also be a viewing Friday night at the same location from 7-9 p.m.

Cemetery

City of Mesa Cemetery

1212 N. Center St.
Mesa, AZ, 85201

Events

FEB **Viewing** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5620 E. Adobe St., Mesa, AZ, US, 85205

FEB **Viewing** 10:00AM

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5620 E. Adobe St., Mesa, AZ, US, 85205

FEB **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5620 E. Adobe St., Mesa, AZ, US, 85205

Comments



“ I send my condolences to the family, now that my husband has passed away on March 10, 2018, Donald Glen Millett, he is not here to ask him more about the family, but I remember that his mother, Lillian Freestone Millett loved and respected Vern Merrill and her husband and family a lot. She used to tell lots of stories about them and what good people they were. They were all related. I remember meeting Fern several times and she was always so friendly and gracious. I remember seeing her in the Mesa Temple because Don and I were Mesa Temple workers together for 15 years and I continued working for another 5 years. I know that she knew Lillian Millett very well. So now they can all get together and enjoy one another in the next world. My love to all of you left behind.
Love, Donna S. Millett, wife of Donald Glen Millett now deceased.

Donna S Millett - March 24 at 12:14 AM



“ My dear Aunt Fern was the most patient person and caring person I can so very fondly recall in my early childhood years! She was like a second mother to me and Charlotte and Elaine. During WWII our dad and Aunt Fern's husband, Uncle Phil, were away serving our country, so Aunt Fern was the one available to care for we three Jackson girls, and also her two daughters at the time, Jeanne and DeAnn. We were all just like sisters and I love seeing pictures of the five of us playing with all our dolls.
Later on, when Dad's work transferred them to Flagstaff, she allowed me to briefly live with them when I began my schooling at the University of Arizona and worked at Tucson Medical Labs.
Over the years my Mom, Bonnie, and Aunt Fern remained very close, along with their dear brothers and their wives, and they truly enjoyed each other's company! I feel that their relationship was what kept Mom active and motivated for the rest of her life!

Donna Larkin - February 27 at 09:09 PM



“ My Grandma Merrill was the sweetest, kindest most compassionate person anyone would ever meet. She was soft spoken and thoughtful. She enjoyed music to the very end and always showered us grandkids with love and kisses. She will be greatly missed and know she is having a wonderful reunion in her "White Mountains" with homemade ice cream and loved ones surrounding her!

Christy Sorbe - February 26 at 08:28 PM



“ Meldrum Mortuary lit a candle in memory of Fern Ashcroft Merrill



Meldrum Mortuary - February 25 at 05:41 PM