



## Mabel Darlene Gillespie

April 7, 1938 - December 22, 2022

Mabel Darlene Bevier was born April 7, 1938 to Irvin and Marjorie Bevier in Omak, Washington.

She attended and graduated from Okanogan High School in 1956.

She married her high school sweetheart, David Lee Gillespie, August 19, 1957. They had two daughters Toni and Tamara.

After their wedding they went to work for David's uncle and aunt, Cassell and Janice Forrester, on their cattle ranch. They worked for Cassell and Janice for about four years before moving to Lazy River Orchard and working for David's father, Loris Gillespie.

Loris eventually retired and sold the Orchard to David and Darlene. They took over the orchard and made improvements on the apple orchard and planted two more orchards by Malott and Tonasket. They owned and operated these orchards from the early 1960's to early 1990's.

Darlene was David's righthand woman. She was the Orchard's bookkeeper/secretary, tractor driver, hostess, wife, mother and cheerleader for their two girls.

David and Darlene loved to travel and went on agricultural tours to Australia, New Zealand and China. They also spent several vacations in Hawaii and Mexico.

They sold out the apple orchard in 1991 and semi-retired to the Seattle Area, where David hauled horses across the country and Darlene went to work as a bookkeeper for Bellevue BMW.

At this time Darlene was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. She was missing her family and the beautiful Okanogan Valley, so they moved back to Okanogan. David got a job driving truck for Systems Transportation so they could be closer to home.

Darlene was an Eastern Star Member and belonged to the Okanogan Valley Cattlewomen's Association and truly enjoyed spending time with these ladies.

Darlene was a wonderful hostess and really enjoyed planning and putting together parties. The Graduating Classes of 1956 and 1957 had some wonderful class reunions at David and Darlene's home. Darlene also put together some memorable Christmas Eve parties.

Darlene was preceded in death by her husband David, grandson Shawn Gillespie, daughter Tamara, her father and mother Irvin and Marjorie Bevier and brother Ronald Bevier.

Darlene is survived by her sisters Roberta Maas, Bonita Ballinger, brothers Donald Bevier, Roger(Judy) Bevier and daughter Toni Symonds. Grandchildren Hamley (Shorty) Symonds, Billie Jo (Zande) Waddington, John(Elizabeth) Symonds, Marissa (Alex) Dreyer, Kyle McWeeney. Great Grand Children Reata and Teresa Waddington, Charles Gillespie and Hayden Anderson Wood and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

To many to mention them all without forgetting someone.

Darlene will be missed by many people that loved her.

We all would like to express our deepest appreciation for the care and love she received from the nurses and staff at Regency Omak and her Doctors that took wonderful care of our mother, sister, and grandmother. You all are truly amazing Caregivers.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mabel Darlene Gillespie*

October 23, 2023 at 01:06 AM



“ *Darlene was a faithful follower of the 49'ers; and at times came to our house to ride to the dances, and she loved playing with our daughter, Pam. Darlene was always a very "good" person and it broke my heart to see her suffer with the Parkinson's. I did singalongs there for years (before Covid) and she would try so hard to hold the music and sing along, even though you could see she was in pain, she was there. She was SO proud of her kids and told me about them, and always asked about my kids by name. Rod spent quite a bit of time visiting them when they lived on the home ranch, and was good friends of Toni and Tami. I'm thankful God finally saw fit to take her home to a better place, and we know she's not hurting. Loved you SO much, Darlene. Love always, Edna Mae Hinger*

**Edna Mae Hinger** - December 30, 2022 at 08:20 AM



*Thank you so much Edna.  
She absolutely loved you and looked forward to your visits and sing a longs.*

**Toni R Symonds** - January 09, 2023 at 09:43 PM