



Ione D. Stecher

October 23, 1923 - October 20, 2013

Bellingham, WA

Ione D. Stecher passed away at home on October 20, 2013 following a short illness. Ione was born Ione Anne Dey on October 23, 1923 in Belle Plain, Wisconsin in a barn as the family home had been destroyed by fire. She was the youngest of three children born to Martin and Linda Dey.

Ione led an amazing life by growing up in the Great Depression, and often told stories of her family's hardships and the steps she took to leave her small town and pay for her education. She used the first money she ever earned picking strawberries to buy her first tooth brush. After graduating from high school she enrolled in nurses training at Milwaukee Evangelical Deaconess Hospital. In order to meet the demand for nurses, the Army Nurses Army Corp. began enlisting student nurses at the beginning of World War II. Ione completed her training after enlisting and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Army at the completion of her training. She met her late husband John F. "Jack" Stecher (An enlisted man) while serving on a troop transport & hospital ship during the Second World War. They married on January 16, 1945 in New York City.

At the end of WW II Ione and Jack moved to St. Louis, Missouri where she supported her husband by working as a hospital nurse, while he studied

medicine at St. Louis University.

Upon Jack's graduation from medical school, lone and Jack with their 3 sons (David, Daniel and Christopher), then moved to Caldwell, Idaho. Their growing Family was soon joined by their three daughters, (Beth, Susan and Sarah.) lone stayed at home rearing her children until Jack decided to study Pathology at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, OR. She then returned to work as a surgical nurse during her husband's residency.

The family moved to Bellingham during the summer of 1970. After working as a surgical nurse at St. Luke's hospital, lone retired, but volunteered for the Visiting Nurse's organization in Bellingham and helped establish Wellness Check-up Centers at the Senior Centers in Whatcom County. lone then moved to Anacortes until she and her husband returned to Bellingham in May of 1990.

lone remained active by volunteering at the Whatcom County Food Bank and at "Wise Buys" (Lydia House) in Bellingham. She played bridge several days a week with her dear friends.

Farewell Tribute Information

At lone's request, there will be no services. Donations Information

lone requests that any donations in her honor be given to local charities that serve Whatcom County, or to Doctors Without Borders.

Tribute Wall

LF

“ My sincere sympathy to all the family. Your Mom lone, was a delightful lady to know as a neighbor in Geneva, and a nice friend. I always admired her ‘spunk’. You will always have her in your hearts.
Lynda

Lynda Weber Ferry - October 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Ionesco was a very special lady and will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers are with her family especially Sipusan and Sara.

Nancy Baldwin - October 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Our heart-felt condolences go out to Beth and all of her family on the sad loss. Beth, we’ll hold a hug in our hearts until we can deliver it in person.

Jeff Smith & Betty Means - October 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Liesa and I are very sorry to here the passing of your mom. She was a wonderful person and friend to my mom, Edna. Our thoughts are with you.

Marty Krause - October 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM