



Vianna Pihlaja

SEP 25, 1924 - NOV 3, 2011



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Vianna Pihlaja

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Vianna Pihlaja, 87, passed away in Portland, Oregon in the loving arms of her husband Al. Vianna was born in Warren, Oregon on September 25, 1924 to Ola and Arthur Brasmer.

Her childhood was spent as a tomboy keeping up with her siblings Art, Paul "Waump" and June. She could beat the boys at any sport, but her teacher told her "girls don't play football!" It didn't stop Vianna from a loving, full and active life.

She graduated from St Helen's High School and worked as a bookkeeper at Crown Z which later became Boise Cascade. Vianna married Harold Harwood and had two sons, Hal and Ron. Harold passed from her life after the boys were grown.

Vianna met Al Pihlaja at Boise Cascade and her officemates warned her that Al "had a station wagon full of kids!" They were married in 1969.

Crafts, drawing and decorating always kept Vi's hands busy, but she still took time to enjoy the kid's activities and sports events. She excelled at needle crafts and left a legacy of hats, quilts, scrapbooks and decorations. She would decorate with attention to the smallest detail. No project was too daunting including the entire Moose Hall for the Office Party or Barbie Birthday cakes for her new daughters. Her hobbies grew to professional status when she opened The Gift Shop, supplying and teaching her love of crafts in St Helens. A few years later she opened The Style Shop and she enjoyed going to market, staging window displays and retailing women's, juniors and men's clothing. Despite being a busy shopkeeper, Vianna kept painting and drawing. Her art was displayed and won awards in numerous shows. The Old Man with a Violin painting was a favorite at the Trojan Art Show.

Vianna enjoyed trips with Al, going wine tasting, RVing, camping, traveling Europe, cruises and visiting family. Always active, she enjoyed sailing, square dancing, swimming, and bowling, which was her favorite sport. She played on several bowling teams and attended Nationals in New



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Orleans in 1966. Duplicate Bridge with friends, puzzles of all kinds and board games with grandchildren were also favorites.

She loved being at the beach, she worked hard with Al building their beach house in Surfside. She was a champion strawberry picker, razor clam digger, oyster shucker and chef. Her favorite food was fried oysters, which she taught Al how to make so he could always prepare them for her.

Vianna Pihlaja leaves her husband Al and six children: Hal, Ron, Terry, Laura, Graydon and Doug, as well as fifteen grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren.

A celebration of her life is planned for early spring.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

We were thinking about Grandma this weekend and wanted to express our sadness to the whole family. She was a terrific lady and will be remembered every time we look at one of the handmade cards or the gifts displayed proudly in our home- especially the Christmas Stockings we hang every year.##imported-begin##Jim & Heidi Harwood ##imported-end##

January 29 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al: I remember the day that Vi came to work at BCC. Her then husband was dying and she was having to move back to the area. She and I had desks next to each other on the main floor of the old office. She and I and Peg Howell worked together in accounting. What amazed me about Vi was her happy spirit. I am so sorry to hear of her death but glad to know that she had such a good life with you. Sincerely, Judy "Hogan" Churchill##imported-begin##Judy Churchill##imported-end##

November 30 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Hello Al, I am so thankful to have run into you and Vi not long ago while walking my dogs. It is my last memory of her and it is wonderfully characteristic. She had a great sparkle in her eyes, she said something suitably sarcastic about your driving and she managed a smile; despite her Parkinsons Disease. I will forever remember that. You were very fortunate to have met that woman; I am so sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Daryl Adamson##imported-end##

November 26 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al & family, I was so sorry to hear that Vi had passed away. I have so many pleasant memories of our acquaintanship - from art classes with Vi, square dancing, getting to know all you children and that through Bruce, have been able to stay informed. I always thought of you two as a match made in heaven, you were so compatible. I know you'll miss her very much.##imported-begin##Doris Calder##imported-end##

November 19 at 5:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Al, I am deeply saddened to hear about Vi's passing. I know you have many great memories and I hope they are oomforting to you during this difficult time. I fondly remember all the wonderful times we shared in Napa together. The next time I open a Rafanelli, you can be sure I will drink a toast to Vi and her wonderful life well lived.##imported-begin##Steve Gonsalves##imported-end##

November 18 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al & family,I have fond memories of always being a welcome guest in your happy, bustling household when growing up. You & Vi were always sure to include me in your son's activities, as well as some beach construction projects without them!My deepest condolences for your loss. Time is the great healer.##imported-begin##Bruce Calder##imported-end##

November 17 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Doug,I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. I hope you are able to feel some peace when you are reminded of all the joyous times you had together. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. ~debbie~##imported-begin##Debbie Milet Baxter##imported-end##

November 15 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Al & family,We are remembering the fun interactions with your family over the years in church and school. Vi was a kind and gracious lady and she will be missed by many people. Our condolences to you and your family.##imported-begin##Wes & Marilyn Naish##imported-end##

November 13 at 5:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Vi, you and Al raised some wonderful children, and you knew how to have fun with them and share memorable times throughout the years, including us, the lucky friends of those children. You did it all, with Al, and I send a prayer for your passing, and will remember you and your contribution to life in this world. You knew how to make people smile. Thank you.##imported-begin##Sam Booth##imported-end##

November 10 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al and Family, We were so sorry to hear about the loss of Vi. We enjoyed our many trips to Napa Valley together. It was always inspiring to see the two of you giggle and have so much fun together. Vi was always so witty and such a delight. She was a blessing to all those around her and she will be missed. Her spirit continues to live in our hearts. Our deepest sympathy for your loss. With love, John and Patricia Heller##imported-begin##Patricia Heller##imported-end##

November 8 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al and Family, We were so sorry to hear about the loss of Vi. We enjoyed our many trips to Napa Valley together. It was always inspiring to see the two of you giggle and have so much fun together. Vi was always so witty and such a delight. She was a blessing to all those around her and she will be missed. Her spirit continues to live in our hearts. Our deepest sympathy for your loss. With love, John and Patricia Heller##imported-begin##Patricia Heller##imported-end##

November 8 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al. We were so sorry to hear of Vi's passing and send thoughts and prayers your way. It has been many years since we last met in Minnesota, but those were wonderful times. Take care...##imported-begin##Susie and Jerry Kulenkamp##imported-end##

November 7 at 5:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear Al, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I remember Vi so very fondly as she always welcomed my visits to your home as Laura's friend. She was a fun and kind woman who will be missed. Take care. Jean Mendenhall##imported-begin##Jean Mendenhall##imported-end##

November 7 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Al, We shall never forget our fun trips to Napa with you and Vi and the Carribean cruises. You two always had so much energy and were fun to be with, even for those of us in the next generation. Our prayers are with you. Hope we can see you when you come to Yakima. Laura says you haven't golfed much lately, but I would always be willing to take you out, even for 9 holes--after the weather gets nicer, of course.##imported-begin##Mike and Merilee Buehler##imported-end##

November 7 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Al, We are thinking of you and remembering the happy visits we made with the Muehleck clan to your beach home. Vi was such a gracious hostess and welcomed everyone. She was a lovely person and we know you had a special life together. It is a pleasure to keep you in our prayers. Love, Henry and Jeanette Muehleck##imported-begin##Henry and Jeanette Muehleck##imported-end##

November 7 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

As my son said, she was such a sweet woman and so very talented. We enjoy her paintings everyday. Al, thank you for all the care and kindness you showed her and you were always their for her---such a dedicated person. We send thoughts and prayers your way. Peace of the Lord.##imported-begin##vickie harwood##imported-end##

November 6 at 5:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Al: Remembering you and Vi so well;!m so sorry to learn of her passing. The story of her life is most heartwarming. With my sincere sympathy. Lillian Mickelson##imported-begin##Lillian Mickelson##imported-end##

November 4 at 5:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Vianna by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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