



Dorcas Arlene (Rinker) Specht

February 5, 1927 - November 21, 2024

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service sends condolences to the family of Dorcas Arlene (Rinker) Specht.

Dorcas Arlene (Rinker) Specht, 97, of Jerome, passed away Thursday, November 21, 2024. She was born in the Shenandoah Valley, on February 5, 1927, daughter of Nora Lena (Miller) Rinker and Isaac Stanley Rinker. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Lionel Delbert Specht. Aside from living a short time in Louisiana where Lionel was stationed with the U.S. Army Air Corps and another short time in Chicago where Lionel was training for work with Shentel, she lived on the same road for nearly all her life. Most of her family had called Shenandoah Valley home since the late 18th century.

Fiercely independent, frugal but feisty and funny, Dorcas, or “Nanny” as she was known to her family, enjoyed travelling and camping, as well as mowing her sizable yard, a job she insisted on doing well into her 90s. Her entire family will always remember a huge variety of fun travel experiences with Nanny like riding a dog sled in Alaska, cruising in a limo in Las Vegas, watching shows in Branson, MO, sightseeing across Europe, and camping at “the pond” behind her home.

She is predeceased by sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn (Rinker) Funkhouser

and Elwood Funkhouser; brother, Marion Rinker; sister-in-law, Rodelle (Hansberger) Rinker; daughter and best friend, Linda Dawn (Specht) Whetzel; and son-in-law, Joe Whetzel. She is survived by one brother, Galen Rinker of Maryland; sister-in-law, Shirley (Coffman) Rinker of Woodstock; son, Larry (Hilda) Specht of Culpeper; grandchildren Dan (Elaine) Specht of Woodstock, Sherrie (Mike) Whetzel Barrick of New Market, Laurie (Frankie) Whetzel Gray of New Market, and Denise (Jerome) Specht Mabie of Locust Grove; four great-grandchildren, Kyle Kennedy (Chante), Anneliese Mabie, Alicia Bare, and Hayden Mabie; three great-great grandchildren Jade, Sariah, and Aldon; and 4 nephews and 2 nieces.

Nanny prefers that her friends, neighbors, and family take a moment and remember the fun times they had together rather than gather in sadness. The family will have a private burial service in the future. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4109 Jerome Road, Edinburg, VA 22824.

Online condolences may be left at valleyfs.com

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Uncle Larry and family, sorry to hear this! May God give you all strength and comfort through this difficult time! Love Karen Burner and family*

Karen Burner - November 25, 2024 at 12:19 PM