



Grace E. Bates

February 3, 2023

Grace Eleanora Bates, 97, of Simpsonville, SC, widow of Marvin B. Bates and previously a widow of William J. Blanck, passed away on Friday, February 3, 2023. Born in Fond du Lac, WI, she was a daughter of the late Claude T. and Mable Fairbank Boudry.

Grace left high school and began working for a shoe factory in Waupun, WI. A short time later, Grace reconnected with William Blanck and they were married. In 1943, Grace took the train to Chicago to say goodbye to her husband, Bill, as he shipped off to Normandy. She became a war widow after only a few months of marriage. Grace then met Marvin Bates and they began their family. They opened a restaurant in North Fond du Lac before Marvin's job in construction and roofing took them to Janesville, WI. They later relocated to California.

Grace had a tremendous work ethic having grown up during the depression. She held many interesting jobs during her career that spanned over 63 years. Grace made fuel bladders for military aircraft, worked for Laura Scudders potato chips in California, Giddings & Lewis making circuit boards for large machinery, and St. Agnes Hospital cafeteria before retiring at 69. She then rejoined the workforce for 10 years with various jobs including a hostess for Country Kitchen and Culvers and worked at Copps Grocery.

Grace is survived by her son, Rocklyn R. Bates (Jane) of Simpsonville, SC; four grandchildren, Dennis Grainger, Rachelle Bates Matney, Jason Bates, and Joshua Bates; seven great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren.

In addition to her husbands and parents, Grace was preceded in death by three children, Marlene G. Bates, Sandra Bates Grainger, and Rocklyn E. Bates; six siblings, Frank Boudry, LaVerne Malson, Lawrence "Bud" Boudry, Virginia Kairis, Margaret Mathwig, and Marjorie Pierce.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to Grace's niece, Judy Cloud, who helped care for Grace when she was still living in Wisconsin.

VISITATION: The family will greet friends from 4:00 – 7:00 PM, on Friday, February 24, 2023 and again from 10:00 – 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory, 31 East Division Street, Fond du Lac.

SERVICE: Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory. Entombment will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023 at Shrine of Rest Mausoleum in Ledgeview Memorial Park.

Cemetery Details

Ledgeview Memorial Park

N6250 County Trunk K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Visitation

FEB **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Funeral Service

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
(920) 921-4420
info@kurkifuneralchapel.com
<https://kurkifuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall

DN

“ Although I never had the pleasure of actually meeting Grace, I find myself thinking of her almost every day. I know very little about Grace, except that at age 90 she purchased the house I now own, so I know she was independent and not afraid of a challenge. I love the mischievous smile on the photo, and I do wish I had had the opportunity to meet her. After more than a year since the unexpected death of my husband, on those days when I feel like I just "can't do this alone," I think of Grace and tell myself, "she did it and so can I." Even though I've never met Grace, she has been an influence in my life.... Thank you, Grace!

Diane Nett - February 24, 2023 at 04:39 PM

RB

Thank you for your kind words and thoughts. We are so glad to have met you and that your new house has been good for you. Thank you again for paying your respect for my Mother. I hope she continues to be a positive force in your life. God bless you!

Rocklyn Bates - March 25, 2023 at 08:59 AM

TG

“ Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Rocklyn Bates for the loss of his mother I was Rocklyn Bates, little brother from the Big Brothers big sisters Timothy L Greene and Cheryl Meyer God bless from us.

Timothy L Greene - February 24, 2023 at 03:36 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Grace E. Bates.*



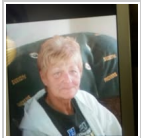
February 23, 2023 at 03:53 PM



“ *Randy Redlin lit a candle in memory of Grace Bates*



Randy Nancy Redlin - February 18, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *so sorry for your lose rocky*

Sharon Rumbuc - February 09, 2023 at 12:47 PM

GM

“ I would like to tell a story that I'm sure will tell you a lot about My Aunt Grace.

A few years back during a conversation Aunt Grace said to me. " George I got kicked out of my apartment as of late because my dog barked". I said, who kicks a 92 year old women out of her apartment? She came back with a smile and said, "Don't worry, I bought a house and I mortgaged it for thirty years, trust me I could have bought it outright, but they couldn't discriminate against me because of my age so I financed it". We both laughed.

She graced us by coming to our wedding and reception at 95 years old, and as you can imagine she was a instant hit!

My Aunt Grace has a special place in my heart, and we will all miss her. She was a God fearing women and her faith has encouraged me many times.

Rocky, Jane and your entire family have so much to be proud of. Thank you for sharing her with us.

George Mathwig - February 09, 2023 at 08:35 AM

DG

“ Dear Aunt Grace - what a WONDERFUL life you had. It is so full of great memories, many of which I share !!! We had fun times when we got together and I will always remember your LOVE OF BLING and PAINTED FINGERNAILS !!!! May you rest now in peace and join in with those who have passed before you .
Love always,
Darlene



Darlene Ann Green - February 08, 2023 at 08:55 PM