



Audrey Elizabeth Backlund

June 26, 1927 - September 3, 2020

Audrey Elizabeth Backlund, a resident of Turlock her entire life, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 3, at the age of 93.

Audrey was born in Turlock to William and Hildur Anderson. As a child and young adult, she had close relatives that lived in San Francisco which meant frequent trips and adventures to the bay area. She graduated from Turlock High School in 1945. Her first jobs were at the local movie theater, Woolworths, and Carr's Cleaners where she met her future husband, Melvin Backlund. After dating a little over a year, they married and Audrey eventually became a homemaker, raising three children.

Audrey was always involved in her children's activities, including Sunday School, Brownies, and Cub Scouts. When her son became a Little League baseball player, she became a huge baseball fan, listening to the Giants on the radio and following her son's baseball playing days. The family always had a dog as a pet and Audrey would become very attached to them. The last dog she cared for was a shelter dog, and Audrey was especially fond of her.

After the children had grown a little older, she went back to work for Head Start as a teacher's aide. She loved working with the young children and would share stories of them at the dinner table. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels and was part of a group of ladies who started a "THS class of 45" breakfast club, which continued for several decades and grew in size . . . because everyone was invited. In her later years, she enjoyed being part of a Wednesday morning coffee group of close friends.

A woman of faith, Audrey was a member of the First United Methodist Church and was the Membership Secretary for many years in addition to being an active member of the United Methodist Women. She adored making salads for special occasions, enjoyed going to the coast, camping at New Brighton and Sea Cliff State Parks, and day trips to Monterey. No one was a stranger to Audrey, and she made everyone feel welcome. After moving to Paramount Senior Living, she was so proud when they made her an "Honorary Greeter" because she was always greeting the new residents. As she leaves us, we remember her favorite songs that demonstrate the way she lived her life—"Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "What a Wonderful World."

Audrey was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Melvin Backlund, and her

brother Bob Anderson. She is survived by her daughter Sandy (Dan) Bettencourt of Denair, son Bob (Nancy) Backlund of Turlock, daughter Diane (Bob) Gillispie of Modesto, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

A graveside service for family and close friends will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020, at Turlock Memorial Park, 575 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock. Guests are requested to wear a mask and to observe social distancing.

Memorial donations can be made in Audrey's honor to the First United Methodist Church, 1660 Arbor Way, Turlock, CA 95380.

Cemetery

Events

Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.

Turlock, CA, 95380

SEP

11

Graveside Service

09:30AM - 10:30AM

Turlock Memorial Park

575 N Soderquist Rd, Turlock, CA, US, 95380-3749

Comments



“ To the Backlund Kids! We each had a sibling close to the same age and our families were long time friends. We have so many memories, each of us with the other. We were all friends, Sandy, you and I are now the matriarchs of our families, the roles that our Mothers held. There's joy in knowing that our parents are all together and watching us from above and my sweet sister is supervising them! When I miss my parents I think of this,

"Perhaps they are not the stars, But rather openings in Heaven, where the love of our lost ones pour through and shines down on us to let us know they are happy."

Hopefully you will find the same joy that I do when I look to the heavens in the evening and know that they are all watching over us. When you are sad and thinking of those that have gone remember...

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and forever dear."

"May you always have a rainbow of smiles on your face and in your heart forever and ever."

Love to each of you.

Diana & Doug and family

Diana Lewis - September 11, 2020 at 02:32 AM



“ Doug, Diana, Toni, Ryan & Ashley Lewis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Audrey Elizabeth Backlund.



Doug, Diana, Toni, Ryan & Ashley Lewis - September 10, 2020 at 06:48 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Audrey Elizabeth Backlund.



September 09, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Audrey Elizabeth Backlund.



September 09, 2020 at 01:32 PM