



Viola Marie Byington

May 8, 1936 - June 7, 2017

Viola Marie Byington, 81, of Bellevue, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Viola was born May 8, 1936, in Lansing, the daughter of Vernon and Mary M. (Esch) Willits. She graduated from Okemos High School in 1954. Following graduation, she married her sweetheart FJ (Pete) Byington on February 18, 1956, in Lansing, MI. Together they would spend over fifty wonderful years married and living on the family farm in Bellevue. She was also a very active member of the Bellevue Christian Center, where she was an exceptional woman of God, prayer warrior and also having a servant's heart. Viola would call and visit local shut-ins and recent widows to see how their day is going and if she could help them with anything. She was a true testament of how life should be lived.

Viola was known as the "craft diva", she loved crocheting, quilting, sewing and knitting. There was no craft project that she could not handle. She made numerous prom dresses, clothing for her children and even a wedding dress. Most importantly she worked with her dear friend Karen and crocheted hats for babies at the local hospital. Each year they would crochet around 100 to 200 hats. She also taught crafts at the local 4-H, as well as ran and coordinated the Bellevue craft show for 15 plus years. Viola absolutely loved having family functions where she would cook her family favorite goulash and her pumpkin pie. When not devoting her time to her family and her faith, she was the Angry Birds Friends champion, a game that she played on the

computer with friends every day. Above all Viola was most proud of her 50 plus year marriage with Pete, her children, her family and her work with the church.

Viola is survived by her sons, Brad (Bernadette) and Brian Byington; daughter, Tracey (Scott) Gerdeman; grandchildren, Brent (Lacey), Chad, Nick, Robert (Callie), Nate (Nicole) and Melissa (Kenny); 6 great-grandchildren; siblings, Charlie and George Willits and Virginia Pettinger; and many extended family and beloved friends. She is predeceased by her husband Pete; parents; and siblings, Jim and Leland Willits.

A Memorial Service is scheduled for Friday, August 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Bellevue Christian Center in Bellevue. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Bellevue Christian Center at www.bellevueconline.org/. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Viola on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

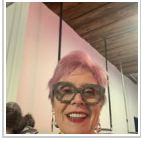
Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

Bellevue Christian Center
734 W. Capital Ave.
Bellevue, MI 49021

Tribute Wall



“ Always caring and loving to Me....made so many special baby blankets over the years for my friends children...just a talented woman. I will miss you Aunt Vi...she was close to my Dad and she was so there when he passed last year.....Rest in Peace.....



Victoria Willits - June 12, 2017 at 04:08 PM



“ 2/3s of The 100-200 hats Vi made each year were donated to Shoe Box Christmas. Out of the 1300-1500 hats kids received I'm sure she had a fan club of kids who greeted her in heaven; recipients of those hats. There was an incredible amount of love that went into each one. I miss my sister Vi terribly! I was in charge of the Prayer Bulletin and Vi was the leader of the prayer chain at BCC so we would talk every other week and even more out of friendship.. I'm looking forward to her Celebration of Life Memorial Service in the near future. What a humble committed servant.

Mary Ann Novetske - June 12, 2017 at 01:28 PM

SW

“ With love to Brad, Brian, Tracey & your extended families:

I'm so sorry to hear of Vi's passing. She has always been a great & true friend. Oh, too many memories to only make a few remarks....it started when our families moved on the corners across the fence within a couple of weeks of each other. We remained neighbors & friends (almost like family) throughout our children's school years - the ponies - the tobogganing - the card games - the exchange of homemade gifts at Christmas time - the exercise walks (after the phone calls to shut-ins) - the neighborhood Halloween parties for the kids, the exchange of baby-sitting and yes, although I knew the basics of knitting & crocheting, learning how to make something, assemble it & read patterns, I have Vi to thank. Her own creations were flawless. I made a lot of my own children's clothes, but did not trust myself to get into specialties, so the wedding dress she made was for my daughter, Sue. Pete, Bill, other neighbors are all missed and Vi will be as well. To you children and grandchildren, cherish your memories as they will live forever.

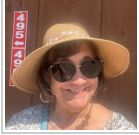
Shirley (Link) & Bob Weers

Shirley (Link) Weers - June 11, 2017 at 10:14 PM



“ *I remember your mom and dad going to a Halloween party. They stopped by our house a few days before to pick up a mud dobber nest. Not sure what their costumes were, but I remember them saying that they hoped all of the wasps were out.*

Deb Lightfoot - June 10, 2017 at 09:08 AM



“ Vi always made you feel loved, she was a true example of a Godly woman! She was a prayer warrior, kind, giving and loved to beat me at angry birds!!! She left an imprint on my heart and even though I will miss her, I know she is with Jesus and her sweet husband Pete! Until we see each other again my friend.

Teresa Tucker - June 10, 2017 at 06:15 AM

ME

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Ellen - June 09, 2017 at 03:17 PM

ME

“ When we were little and they lived on Rolfe Rd in Lansing I learned to knit from her. She was always so much fun to be around. Going to miss you Aunt Vi. Glad you get to be with Uncle Pete again.
Love, Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen - June 09, 2017 at 03:16 PM

KA

“ Mine, as well as many, hearts ache for this passing among us I remember so many Christmases She and Uncle Pete would stop by and The great slippers and hats and mittens she always brought

Katherine - June 09, 2017 at 03:14 PM

JR

“ Vi was one of the first adults I met when our family moved to Bellevue in 1970. I was impressed by her loving and caring personality. Brian, Brad and Tracey my condolences to you in this time of sorrow.

Joan Hart Richards



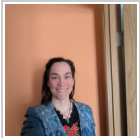
Joan Hart Richards - June 09, 2017 at 02:55 PM



Michelle
Smith

“ My dad has been very ill over the past few months and Vi was one of his prayer warriors. Such a sweet lady, she will be greatly missed.

Michelle Smith - June 09, 2017 at 10:38 AM



“ Vi was a woman who shared her love. I was blessed to know her and experience her love, hugs, and laughter. She was a servant of Christ. She cared for others. She made hats for children she did not know, and for ones she did. She made a raccoon hat for my daughter because my mom asked her to :) When Eliza wears that hat this winter, I will fondly think of my dear Vi.



I love you Vi. And Although I will miss you here on earth, I am so glad you get to meet Jesus and see your husband again. Tell Pete I say Hi, and give him a hug for me.

Jessica Kelley - June 09, 2017 at 09:36 AM

ML

“ *My Thoughts And Prayers are with the family, We All will miss her dearly Mark Link*

Mark Link - June 09, 2017 at 08:44 AM

RH

“ *I will remember her smile and her caring heart. Also the times she shared crochet patterns with me and helped me figure out ones I didn't quite understand. Will miss her a lot. Ruth Halsey*

Ruth Halsey - June 08, 2017 at 08:10 PM

VB

“ *Violaaaaaa-I used to sing her name to her sometimes! She was a great mother in law to me, grandmother to my son's and mom to her own children Brian, Brad and Tracey. She was strong when needed and at the same time caring and thinking of others when they needed something. She was a great example of a wife and mother. I remember her sewing me skirts for my first professional job, teaching me to crochet and telling me not to worry for at least 3 days when Brian was MIA--and taking care of me for the first week after Brent was born. Thank you Byington clan for sharing her with me- I appreciate it. I know she is with her Lord and Savior and laughing with Pete -that sets my heart at ease.*

Valerie Barnaby

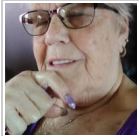
Valerie Barnaby - June 08, 2017 at 07:48 PM



“ I remember going to their house and plowing with the donkey and planting potatoes when I was little. Then going back later to harvest them.



Gerald Byington - June 08, 2017 at 07:47 PM



“ My prayers for all of your family she will be missed for sure Love Joanne

M Joanne May - June 08, 2017 at 07:35 PM



“ To the Entire Byington Family. My Heart goes out to you all. I am So Sorry for Your Loss. Vi was a Wonderful Lady. I Loved having her as a neighbor. She LOVED Her Family. You All were Blessed. Enjoy All of Your Wonderful Memories. Hugs and Love to You All. Sandi Carpenter

Sandi Carpenter - June 08, 2017 at 07:32 PM



“ Oh how I will miss this wonderful lady. We played Angry Birds friends together for years and she was the champion who could not be beaten. She was such devoted servant of Christ and I know she will be remembered for that. Prayers for her family and friends.

Jacke Ames - June 08, 2017 at 07:14 PM

BE

“ Vi was a great loving woman, and bless me with a wonderful husband. She was very competitive in anger birds with me for many years LOL and I will not be able to play with out thinking of her. Mom you win ! And I miss you so much



Bernadette - June 08, 2017 at 06:59 PM

RO

“ As a new bride, I remember visiting the farm and having Vi teach me all kinds of things from gardening to canning and raising chickens. 1978....Good memories. She was a special woman. Sorry about your loss.
Becky Otto

Rebecca Otto - June 08, 2017 at 06:59 PM