



## Mary Joan Stender

April 3, 1932 - April 25, 2026

Mary Stender (Gfeller ), age 94, passed away peacefully on April 25, 2026. She was born April 3, 1932, in Ralston, Washington, to Frederick “Fred” and Elizabeth “Betty” Gfeller.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; siblings David Gfeller and Sr. Barbara Gfeller; her husband Richard “Dick” Stender; and her son Mark Stender.

She is survived by her daughter, Darbury Novoselic ( Krist ), her son, John Stender, and many who loved her dearly. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren, Krystal, Joni, and Kyle; five great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Mary’s life was full of faith, joy, warmth, and generosity. She lived in many areas of Washington State and finally settled on a farm near Cheney, WA. She loved people, gardening, sewing, traveling, and especially time spent with family and friends. Her caring heart touched everyone she met.

She will be remembered as a wonderful mother, aunt, sister, grandmother, daughter, and friend. Mary loved her family deeply and was, in turn, loved greatly by them. Her laughter, kindness, and presence will be dearly missed but forever cherished.

A graveside service will be held at Bethel Cemetery in Steptoe, WA, at 11:00 am, Friday, May 29, 2026, followed by a memorial gathering at Stan and Lori Gfeller's home.

# Cemetery Details

## **Bethel Cemetery**

Scholz Rd  
Step toe, WA 99111

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ I met Mrs. Stender through the museum in Cheney. I enjoyed talking with her and the stories she told me about growing up. My condolences to all her family.

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**Joan** - May 08 at 01:10 PM