

Bessie May Denman Mott Obituary

Bessie May Denman Mott, aged 101, slipped away peacefully in the comfort of her home of 72 years in Spokane Valley, WA on February 26, 2025. Bessie was born on November 25, 1923, northeast of Hillyard on an Orchard Prairie farm homesteaded in 1880 by her grandfather. She was the fourth of Alfred Monroe and Lily Rose Denman's five children. Bessie and her 12-month older sister, Mary, were especially close.

After graduating from Rogers High School in 1941, Bessie began work at the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank in Spokane. She saved and soon purchased a quality upright piano. Bessie met her New England husband of 64 years, Robert Mott, at a USO dance in downtown Spokane. She was in a coat-check line waiting to leave when he remarked on her National Honor Society pin. They danced and he escorted her home by bus before returning to his base at Farragut Naval Training Station.



When her family was younger, Bessie volunteered with Preschool, PTA, Cub Scouts, and the West Valley HS Band Booster organizations. Summers brought long family car trips to visit Bob's Massachusetts family or to explore the country. After her youngest child started school, Bessie resumed typing and bookkeeping. She worked for the accounting firm Randall Emery Campbell Parker, Handy Andy's Building and Home Repair, Murphy's Business Machines, and attorneys Turner, Stoeve, Gagliardi & Goss. After retirement, she worked part-time as a self-employed bookkeeper and typist until fully retiring at age 95. Interestingly, Bessie never grayed. At age 101, her hair remained a rich brown.

Although Bessie was a gardener and enjoyed travel and the family lake cabin, her greatest joy came from her music. A talented piano player, she was especially accomplished at supplying musical accompaniment for soloists, luncheons, church services and other events. She had an exceptional ability to play most any music on sight. Bessie also sang and directed the choir at Trinity United Methodist Church. Over her long life of participation in the Methodist Church, Bessie had membership in Hillyard, Metzger, Trinity and Spokane Valley United Methodist Churches.

Bessie loved following the many activities of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by (son) Gregory Mott, (daughter) Betsy Mott, (daughter, son-in-law) Bobbie and Todd Beese, (granddaughter, husband) Shawna Beese and Scott Groroud, (great-grandson) Zachary Bjurstrom, (granddaughter, husband) Heather and Eric Rosentrater, (great-grandson) Kyler Cummins, and (great-granddaughter) Monroe Cummins, all of Spokane.

Bessie was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Mott, one brother, Monroe Denman, and three sisters, Ellen Harris, Mary Leamer, and Irene Dotson.