



Phyllis Riley Creps

August 3, 1929 - August 31, 2020

ALTO, MI- Phyllis Riley Creps went home to be with the Lord on August 31, 2020. She was 91 years old. Two days before her 91st birthday on August 3, 2020, Phyllis fell, fracturing her arm and hip. Immediately, all of her sons and all of her grandchildren traveled to Michigan from across the country to be with her. What transpired was an overflowing of love, caring and celebration. It was also a testament that one who loved so well was so well-loved.

Phyllis was born Phyllis Madolyn Riley in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, the youngest child of Frank and Elizabeth Riley on August 3, 1929. She attended Williamsburg High School, graduating valedictorian of the class of 1947. She married James Richards Creps in 1953. The two had three children, Chad Burtless-Creps, Clay Creps and James Creps. Phyllis moved to Adrian, Michigan in 1963, where she raised her sons on her own, and where she lived until May 2020 when she moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan to live with Chad and his wife Becky. Phyllis held positions at Adrian College, Bixby Hospital and Michigan Milk Producers during the course of her working life.

Phyllis was a devoted mother and doting grandmother, in which role she was known as “Grammy.” Her freely given love and selflessness, her humility and strong faith, inspired her children and grandchildren. One of her grandchildren wrote these words shortly after her passing:

It’s a weird pain when you lose someone you love; the ache of missing that

person, yet the joy of knowing they are face to face with the Lord. 2 days before her 91st birthday my sweet Grammy fell and broke her hip and shoulder. What transpired from that accident is a true testament of God's goodness...for a week we got to laugh, cry, celebrate 91 years, look through old photos, hold each other's hands, and spend time with the woman who made our family who we are. I wish I could stand in front of an auditorium of people and talk for hours about the greatness that was my sweet, sweet Grammy, how she raised 3 amazing boys on her own, how she rose above the odds, and how she humbly served others. Grammy lived well, and she loved well. And she gave us the greatest gift of family. Today my sweet Grammy met Jesus – I wish I could have seen that embrace.

When asked by one of her sons how she had managed to raise three boys by herself to be successful adults, she responded simply, "I just loved you." That sums up Phyllis, Mom and Grammy – she just loved, carrying out Jesus' charge to love one another – and in so doing, she was well-loved by her family and friends.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her mother and father, her brothers Francis Riley and Franklin Riley, her sisters Jean Frye and Kathryn Riley, and her granddaughter, Sarah Burtless-Creps. She is survived by her sister Doris McNerlin, of Williamsburg, Pennsylvania; her sons Chad Burtless-Creps and his wife Becky of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Clay Creps of Portland, Oregon, and Jamie Creps and his wife Sandy of Boston, Massachusetts. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Phoebe (Josh) Oberski, Matthew and Sean Burtless-Creps; James and Riley Creps; and Madeline, Peter and Grace Creps.

A memorial service for Phyllis will be held Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at the Adrian First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery, officiating. Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian has been entrusted with arrangements; where

memories and online condolences may be shared at www.wagleyfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
156 E. Maumee Street
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall

PC

“ I miss you Grammy, I remember late one night or early morning, when I was around 7, and Gracie 5, where we woke and went to the kitchen to get a snack, you woke to the noise we made and greeted us with in the kitchen with your standard “oh garsh, my darlings” you didn’t hurry us back to sleep instead you made sure our tummies were full. Your selflessness and love is something we always aim to replicate. You lived a good, and long life, one full of love, adventure, and triumph. You struggled, felt immense pain, and experienced tragedy, but none of that stopped the outpouring of love and kindness from your heart. We miss you every day, even five years later, and we can’t wait to see you again.

Peter Creps - August 21, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *Phyllis Riley Creps*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM

LO

“ *Chad and Becky, my heart goes out to you and all your family at this time. I really enjoyed working with your Mom. She was so proud of her sons and grandchildren. What a special lady! Take care & God bless.*

Lisa Osworth - September 13, 2020 at 07:40 PM

JW

“ *Dr. Chad, I so remember your mom from my days at Bixby. Such a sweet friendly face and quiet smile. so sorry for your loss. Former patient, Julie Wellnitz*

JULIE WELLNITZ - September 08, 2020 at 08:27 AM

JA

“ Oh! Dear Chad, Clay and Jamie, so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. We're now recent members of that sad club. May she rest in peace, and may you all find your strength during this difficult time.

Love, Jane {Hunt} Bloom

Jane - September 08, 2020 at 07:23 AM

JN

“ My condolences to all of you. Your mom and grandma was my neighbor for almost twenty years and in that time she was just the sweetest person to live next to. My daughters and I would go over and spend time with her and just talk. She was always telling us how much she loved you all and how lucky she felt to have such an amazing family. I feel very lucky to have had her as a neighbor and a friend. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jennifer Northcutt - September 07, 2020 at 02:55 PM

AD

“ Chad, Clay and James, my deepest condolences to you. The family you all have today, is the greatest tribute you could offer your mother. Cherish this, as I know you will. You are blessed to have had time together, with her, to share memories and to make new ones as you guided her to her next journey. What fortunate grandchildren, to know such a woman as their grandmother. You are all in my thoughts.

Allison Dutoit - September 07, 2020 at 05:26 AM

SL

“ Chad, Clay, James and families, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was such a beautiful woman inside and out. She was always so kind and soft spoken. I remember the summer she hired me to stay with you boys while she worked at the college. It was my first real job, but it was more fun than work. The three of you were so well behaved. Such good memories. You grew into beautiful, responsible men and she was so proud of each of you. I think of you three often. Chad, you took care of some of my dental needs. James, you took care of my son, Josh, and now he is a DPT. Clay, well I have not had need for an attorney (thank goodness), but if I do I may call you for a referral. I will remember your mom always as a wonderful woman and friend and will keep you and your families in my prayers.

Sue Laughlin - September 06, 2020 at 01:18 PM

JW

“ To Chad, Clay, Jamie and your families. I worked with Phyllis for many years at Bixby Hospital and always thought the world of her. We watched her raise three young boys single handed. And with awesome results. I am so glad that I had the good fortune of knowing her. So sorry for your loss. Jane Westfall

Jane Westfall - September 05, 2020 at 10:29 AM

MH

Dr Chad and extended family my sincere and deepest sympathy to all of you. I know your hearts are heavy as you were all blessed with a loving Mother. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love and God bless to each of you. Dr. Chad you are missed and many thanks for your kindness to my family and I when we lost loved ones too

Marie Hartley - September 05, 2020 at 11:24 PM

DE

Dr. Chad & family, So sorry to hear about Mom! May the Lord bring you peace & comfort at this time!

Dawn Edwards - October 02, 2020 at 11:40 PM