



Gertrude F. Bigge

January 7, 1927 - May 21, 2025

Gertrude (Gertie) F. Bigge, aged 98 of Laporte, Colorado, died on May 21st, 2025. Gertie was born on January 7th, 1927, in Hugo, Colorado. She was the youngest daughter of Albert J. and Irene Griebel Koppes, both deceased. She is survived by children Carolyn (Earl) Clay of Steelville, Missouri, Phillip “Doug” (Kathleen) Bigge of Laporte, Colorado, Dianne (Sudie) Bigge of Juneau, Alaska and David “Tony” (Tanya) Bigge of Anacortes, Washington. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, Jason Bigge (Alisha), Josh Bigge (Julie), Stacey Clay, Michelle Neuwirth (Alvin), Kristina Cowling (Dan), Gretchen Bigge, Savannah Nielsen (Eric), Cameron Bigge (Frannie).

10 great grandchildren Brittany Contreras (Matthew), Cooper Bigge, Jackson Bigge, Carli Bigge, Jade Bigge, Anthony Neuwirth, Casen Lilly, Alexa Cowling & Kiara Cowling, Natasha Cowling and one great, great grandchild, Lyla Contreras and many nieces and nephews.

Gertie prided herself on being a native-born Coloradoan. Her family moved from Hugo, Colorado to Stockton, Kansas when she was just 4 years old. There, she attended school and married her high school sweetheart, Donald D. Bigge, in 1945. They lived on the Bigge family farm outside of Stockton until they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1958.

Gertie was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and volunteered at the

church's donation center, Mary's Closet, for many years. She was a member of St. Monica and Rose of Lima Alter Societies. She was also a member of the American Legion and the Food Service Association.

Gertie started working for Poudre R1 School District Food Service in 1968 and retired as Cafeteria Manager in 1988 having worked at Poudre, Fort Collins and Rocky Mountain High Schools. She was awarded Employee of the Year in 1988.

Gertie enjoyed traveling to visit her family which took her to North Carolina, Mississippi, Washington, Alaska, and Missouri. She took every opportunity to check out the nearest National and State Parks. She lived at Brookdale Assisted Living, Fort Collins, CO for the last two years and enjoyed various activities and spending time with her friends. Her hobbies included crocheting, stained glass creations, ceramics, quilting, and embroidery. She was an avid card player and enjoyed reading and working on picture puzzles.

On December 28, 1988, she married Gilbert F. Bush. This happy marriage lasted only six months as Gib became ill and passed away on July 9, 1989. Also preceding her in death were husband, Don Bigge (1983), great granddaughter, Emma Kate (2006) two brothers, Vernon and Nicholas Koppes, and a sister, Philisene Probasco.

The funeral mass will be held 9:30 am, Thursday, May 29, 2025 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Reception will follow at the Knights of Columbus, 121 Meldrum St. . Interment will follow the reception at 12:00pm at Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery beside her husband, Donald Bigge. Donations in her honor may be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Church and School in Fort Collins, Colorado. Visit bohlenderfuneralchapel.com to share memories with the family.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAY 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church
300 W. Mountain Ave.
Fort Collins, 80521

Reception

MAY 29. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Knights of Columbus
121 North Meldrum Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521-2653

Graveside Service

MAY 29. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Resthaven Memory Gardens Cemetery
8426 S. College Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tribute Wall

JT

“*Doug, Mary Jo was in Ft. Collins yesterday and heard of your mom's passing. It sounds like she lived a long, happy life. As there is no one who can fill a mother's place, I am so sorry and want to extend my condolences to you from the Frison family. May she rest in peace.*

Jeanette Frison Taylor

Jeanette Frison Taylor - June 22, 2025 at 07:15 AM

PP

“*Aunt Gertie was an icon in the Bigge family and a wonderful role model of a life well lived. How she ever kept track of all of us and her immediate family always amazed me. She knew where everyone was and what everyone was doing. I will miss her giant print email updates. Condolences to the family. Wish we lived closer and we would be there to celebrate her life with you...Love and hugs*
- Marsha and Paul Philbrook, Boise, Idaho

Paul and Marsha H Philbrook - May 23, 2025 at 09:56 AM

MO

Gertie was an amazing Lady! I met her through my Mom when she joined the ladies groups at St Joe's. We played cards a couple of times a month and then on Sundays at our friend's Dorothy's house. They were fun times that I got to enjoy with amazing women. She was a wonderful friend and a fierce card player who beat me more often than not. I will miss her so much! Big hug to all her family!

Mary Owen - May 27, 2025 at 11:36 PM