

### Amparita Marie Simons

SHELBY - Amparita Marie Simons, 81, co-owner of Simons Oil, and homemaker, passed away of heart failure Sunday, March 26, at the Marias Medical Center.

A vigil service will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at St. William Catholic Church, where the funeral Mass will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 29.

Memorials may be given to the Harry and Amparita Simons Memorial Scholarship Fund. Whitted Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Amparita was born Nov. 15, 1918, in Shelby to John and Pilar (Alzuri) Hasquet and graduated from Shelby High School in 1937. She later graduated from Kinnaman Business College in Spokane. It was there she married Harry Simons on Dec. 12, 1942. They made their home there while Harry served as a navigator in the Navy. He passed away on May 29, 1993.

In 1950 they moved to Shelby and joined in the family farming operation. In 1962 Harry and Amparita purchased the Charlie Fellows Union Oil Bulk Plant, which is presently known as Simons Oil. She was still involved with her son Pat in the business at the time of her death.

Amparita served as a Girl Scout leader for eight years. She was president of the Toole County Republican Women and served as "first lady" of Shelby while her husband was mayor.

She was a member of St. William Catholic Church, where she served as organist and choir director, president of the Altar Society and president of the Conrad Deanery, helping to chair the first convention ever for that organization.

She served as chairperson of women's affairs at the convention of the Knights of Columbus in Montana. Amparita was past president of the Shelby Soroptimist International, where she received the Woman of Distinction Award in 1996. She also taught piano for over 25 years.

Survivors include her daughters, Sharon Hanser of Billings; Jeanie Schemm of Everett, Wash.; and Renee Simons of Bonney Lake, Wash.; her sons, Pat of Shelby; Mike of Missoula; Bill of Helena; Tom of Lewistown; and Joe of Sunburst; brothers Bob and Julius of Shelby; and sisters Irene Joyce and Jerry Biggs, both of California, and Margo Hasquet and Mary Jean Wells of Shelby. She had 20 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Her husband, brother Louis and sister Olivia preceded her in death.



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