

# Doris Rae "Blondie" Kershner

September 2, 1924 – February 11, 2015

Graveside service for Doris Rae "Blondie" Kershner, 90, will be held at 1 p.p. Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Wheatland Cemetery in Wheatland with Pastor Andy Gudahl of the First Christian Church officiating.

On Wednesday, February 11, after a short illness, Doris "Blondie" Rae Kershner, died peacefully at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. surrounded by her loving family. Doris was an active 90 at the time of her death.

Doris was a resident of Annapolis, Md., since 2010, although she was born in Cripple Creek, Colo. on Sept. 2, 1924 to Erma (Homes) Garberich and Roy R. Garberich. A westerner through and through, Doris was raised in Arizona, where she graduated from Prescott High in 1942. A Jacqueline of all trades, Doris tried her hand in varied occupations including, nanny, clerical associate, or "girl Friday," and clearance officer at the Prescott airport, where she learned to fly. And into the arms of her long-awaited Wyoming cowboy she flew on Dec. 16, 1945, where they were hitched in Monrovia, Calif. at the end of World War II.

Doris and Morris "Doc" Kershner maintained the family-owned cattle ranch in Wyoming, where they tended not only to animals, but also to a new family. Son, Steven, was followed by daughter, Cynthia, rapidly fulfilling Doris's bucket list. Both Doris and Doc were active participants in the State and National Grange as officers. After living on the ranch for 29 years, the family moved to Denver, Colo. in 1974. Doris and Doc purchased a truck and became owner/operators for a trucking company, where Doris became an overland truck driver. The following year, after Doc's death, Doris continued work at the trucking company, where her husband had managed the fleet.

Doris became a grandmother in 1974 when son Steven and wife Sheri had Chad. She enjoyed being an involved grandmom, and it was her pleasure to spend time with Chad on a regular basis. In fact, it was while with Chad at a Bronco game that the both joined the elite group of Bronco MVPs after being named such (along with 4,000 other crazy – ahem – diehard fans) for sticking out a particularly frigid game in the snow. Luckily, the Broncos won, or there may have been a

different ending to this vignette.

Not one to rest on her laurels, in 1992, Doris retired (for the first time) and moved across the country to Kent Island, Md. to try her hand at eastern shore living. After joining daughter Cindi on the East Coast, Doris began yet another chapter in her already full life. She served as the President of the Kent Island Federation of Arts and reprised her role as a well-loved 4-H leader, which she had been in Wyoming for many years. Maryland recognized her 40 years of service to that organization in 1999. In 2005, Doris accepted a job with Dr. Rachel Howland, M.D., as a part-time office manager in Centreville, Md. Doris moved from Kent Island to Annapolis in 2010, while continuing her work at the doctor's office, until retiring once again, at 90.

Until suffering a heart attack just one week before her passing, Doris maintained an active and fulfilling life. For such a long and varied life, there were few things that Doris disliked: such as horses (whom she never trusted), piglets, cottage cheese (though her homemade cottage cheese was the best ever), and eggs for breakfast. Most of all, Doris loathed spiders, and actually wrecked two cars because of those critters. Doris enjoyed far more. She loved her family and friends, all children, her beloved Snoopy, travel, the Broncos, good steak, decorating (delicious) cakes, collecting White House Christmas ornaments, the Chesapeake Bay, and most of all, the vast expanses of her native west.

Doris is survived by her son, Steven; daughter, Cynthia Gibson (husband Robert); grandson, Chad; siblings, JoAnn and Ray; and dozens of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Morris Kershner on Aug. 14, 1975 and sisters, Charlotte and Erma.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial donations be made to your favorite youth program i.e. the 4-H foundation, a program or to a church camp.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gorman Funeral Homes – Platte Chapel of Wheatland.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.gormanfh.com](http://www.gormanfh.com)