

Mary (Etchezahar) Gless

1911 – 2009



Mary Louise Etchezahar was born in Los Angeles, California on October 20th, 1911 and raised in El Toro, California.

She married John Pierre Gless, the son of Basque immigrant shepherders in 1936. Mary and John farmed in El Toro until John retired in 1961. They relocated to the Woodcrest area of Riverside where they enjoyed rural life on a citrus grove farmed by their son John J. Gless. When John J. Gless, his wife Janet and their four children

opened a fruit stand on Van Buren Blvd. in 1976, Mary and John, or Gramma and Gramps as they were affectionately known to the Gless Ranch customers, became beloved figures working together there with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1994, Mary and John relocated to Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho to be close to their daughter Barbara Gless Hoffman and her family. Living in Idaho gave Mary the opportunity to enjoy many years with Barbara and her husband John, their four children and their families. Mary was an active part of their lives. After the death of Mary's husband in 1996, Mary spent countless volunteer hours serving meals to the "elderly" at the local senior center.

Mary enjoyed a healthy and active life, which included two long daily walks, until October 2008 when she suffered a broken hip. Mary never fully recovered from her injury and passed peacefully on March 24, 2009 in Coeur 'd Alene, surrounded by loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mary is survived by her son John J. Gless and wife Janet of Riverside, her daughter Barbara Hoffman and husband John of Coeur 'd Alene, eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. She will be missed.

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