

# Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mom (Grandma Bunny)

June 17, 2022

My mother, known to most of us on our side of the family as Grandma Bunny, was approaching her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in June, 2014. So her family and her friends in the church family decided to have a party for her in the church social hall on the Sunday before her birthday that would fall on Tuesday. Of course, we took a LOT of pictures of Mom and family at this party. Someone asked Mom, "What would you like for your birthday?" She thought for a minute and then replied, "I think I would like to see John!" Of course, "John" was our father, who had passed away 15 years ago in 1999. Mom was now 92, going on 100, and we had joked about reserving the church social hall for her party in June of 2022!

As we wrapped up the party and prepared to leave the church, our son Philip and his wife Christina had some news to release by way of their daughter Jenna, an ONLY CHILD at the precious age of 3. Jenna was whispering to "special" people that she was going to be a "BIG sister." When she whispered this to me, I didn't quite hear what she said, so I didn't get it! Well, Grandma Bunny got it!! Grandma Bunny jumped all over it, knowing that so far, we had ALL granddaughters and NO grandsons, she replied, "I will put in an order for a BOY for your family!" Then, as soon as I figured out what everyone was laughing about, we all went home. Mom lived with our sister Janet, and sister Nancy with husband Ozzie lived nearby. By the way, when Philip and Christina's baby was born, indeed it was a BOY, and his name is John Dawson Rapalje, because "Dawson" is Martha's maiden name. We thought he would go by his middle name "Dawson", but at the young age of about 3, he decided he wanted to be called by his first name "John." Hmmm! That would be "John D. Rapalje," the same as MY father, and HIS father, and HIS great grandfather before him. We now have FOUR John D. Rapaljes in the family tree!

On Mom's birthday two days later, Janet, Nancy, and family members that lived near them took her out for a FREE breakfast and a FREE lunch, probably dinner too! Mom LOVED to save money, so FREE was the best way for her to enjoy eating out. On Friday, Janet and Nancy got up and left for an exercise session at about 7:30 that morning. Mom got up before they left, and she sat down and dozed off in the rocking chair beside her bed. An hour later, when Janet and Nancy returned to Janet's house, Nancy went to Mom's room and stomped on the floor to wake her up and tell her they were home. Mom did NOT wake up!! She was with "her John"!!!

As I mentioned, we thought Mom would live to be 100 just like her own namesake grandmother Emma B. Maytrott (1855.-1955) had done! It seems that the Lord had other plans. Mom had been without Dad, the absolute love of her life, for 15 years, and we must agree that this was long enough. So now in June of 2022, we celebrate Mom's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday without her. But believe me, there is a BIG party going on in Heaven this month, with a very young-looking Bunny and John celebrating with their Heavenly families and the Lord Jesus Himself!!!

And if you believe in Heavenly Portals and a "[cloud of witnesses](#)," (see Hebrews 12: 1), residents of Heaven can "see" what is happening here on occasions, especially on SPECIAL occasions—like 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays!

**HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, MOM!! WE LOVE YOU!**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID FOR US! YOU'RE THE BEST!**

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