

**OBITUARY**  
**Iva Jewell “Julie” Bielman**

**October 30, 1930 – February 10, 2026**

Iva Jewell “Julie” Reed/Crownover/Bielman of Greeley, Colorado, died February 10, 2026, at 95 years of age after a long illness of autoimmune hepatitis and just plain old age.

Jewell was born in Puyallup, WA, to Laura Lilly (Johnsen) Reed (1892-1955) and Percy Pearl Reed (1889-1958). She was the last child born of their seven children, the first of which died at birth.

Also preceding Jewell in death were her two husbands: Ernest Elder Crownover, Jr., a building contractor in Colorado to whom she was married 18 years (1949-1967) and Kenneth Dayton Bielman, a civil engineer with CH2M Engineering in Corvallis, OR to whom she was married 45 years (1972-2017). Jewell’s step-daughter, Lyn Bielman, and step-sons Steve Bielman and Clay Bielman also preceded her in death as did her siblings: Frances Miller (Puyallup, WA); Lawrence Reed (Bellflower, CA); Lilly Rosellini (Tacoma, WA), Hazel Parker (Independence, MO), Robert Reed (Lone Oak, TX); her niece Laura Alice Miller; and nephews: Reed Cooper, Jerry Wheeler, Loren Reed, Jim Barbre, Fred Parker, and Daniel Parker.

Jewell is survived by her children: Michael Reed Crownover of Greeley, CO; E. Scott (Debra) Crownover of Windsor, CO; Cheryl Devon Crownover of Greeley, CO; her step-son Mark (Jan) Bielman of Monmouth, OR; her step-daughter’s-in-law: Mary Jane Bielman (Steve’s wife) of Florence, OR and Lynn Bielman (Clay’s wife) of Kerrville, TX; nine grandchildren: Jen (Kevin) Wenning; Brian Crownover; Justin (Alena) Labhart; Steve (Jennifer) Bielman; James Bielman; Matt (Beka) Bielman; Simon (Hayley) Bielman; Cameron Bielman; Abby Bielman; plus 13 great-grandchildren: Ellis, Iva, Riley, Hannah, Molly, Michael Dayton, Isaac “Zac”, Hunter, Kierra, Rider, Inga Joleen and Myles. Great-granddaughter, Abigail, passed away in 2023. Jewell is also survived by her sisters-in-law: Betty Reed of Claremore, OK and Pat Staeck of Yuma AZ, plus many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

During her life, Jewell lived in eight states (WA, MO, CA, KS, IA, GA, OR, and CO) plus Egypt, Jordan, Cyprus, and Dubai. She attended 15 schools in MO, WA and CA; Graceland College (now University) in Iowa where her father attended 30 years before her; plus Barnes Secretarial School and Park Business College in Denver. She said her working career began at age 12 with berry picking and babysitting in the Puyallup and Tacoma areas and ended 38 years later when she retired as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Consulting Engineers Council of Georgia. As a teen in Summersville, Missouri she waitressed in *Reed's Café* and co-managed with her brother, Bob, the roller-skating rink, both businesses owned by her parents in Summersville, MO.

In Colorado in 1949 where her husband, Ernie, had a football scholarship at the University of Denver, Julie worked between giving birth to their three children: Michael, Scott, and Cheryl. Over the next years, she worked as a secretary or an administrative assistant at Gates Rubber Company; the Air Force Finance Center; GAB's National Educational Center; and the American Water Works Association.

Moving to Los Angeles during the Korean War, Jewell worked in the Editorial Department of North American Aviation editing the *Flight and Maintenance Manuals for the F-100 and F-104 fighter jets*. At that time, the F-100 was the first plane specifically designed to fly faster than the speed of sound! It was at North American Aviation that Julie worked with Chuck Yeager, the first test pilot to break the sound barrier.

Returning to Denver from L.A. in 1954, in addition to working regular secretarial jobs, her *parttime* (evening or weekend) modeling career accelerated with department store runway, tearoom and charity fashion shows; newspaper and catalog photo shoots; Merchandise Mart sportswear (White Stag, Jantzen, Pendelton, etc.), shows and TV commercials for Alexander Film Co. in Colorado Springs, and Lloyd's Furs in Denver. She loved wearing all those nifty outfits!

Jewell and Ernie divorced in 1967 after 18 years of marriage. During the next seven years working at the GAB National Education Center, her boss

kept calling her “**Julie**” to tease her. Except for family, she’s been called **Julie** ever since.

In 1972, Julie married Ken Bielman of Corvallis, OR who established the first CH2M Hill Engineering office in Denver. Nine years later he transferred to Atlanta, GA to establish an office there. Next came assignments in Alexandria, Egypt; Amman; Jordan; Cyprus and Dubai. Julie said living overseas was a challenge, but they had many wonderful and educational experiences abroad. One of the highlights of their time in Alexandria, Egypt was when daughter Cheryl came to visit them a month before they all planned to fly home to the states together. But, one week before their intended departure, Ken was asked to take a short assignment in Amman, Jordan. He accepted and Cheryl went with them to Amman, applied for a job at Arabtech Engineering where Ken worked, and became his secretary. They had many new adventures while in Jordan including visiting Jerusalem, Israel, Cyprus, Germany and Spain.

After returning to the stateside in 1984, Julie and Ken built their dream home in Philomath, OR. Two years later, Julie started a nine-year project compiling data, picture and story-filled volumes of genealogy for her parent’s dating back to 1813; plus, volumes about her siblings; her own life, and one containing copies of all of the letters they (she and Ken) sent home from their overseas assignments describing their adventures. These volumes were given as Christmas gifts to their children, grandchildren, and siblings.

Julie loved to sew. One day at a quilt show with her daughter-in-law, Debbie Crownover, they both fell in love with a 32” x 52” wall-hanging, the blocks depicting the 12 months of the year. They bought its pattern and over the next five years, Julie hand-embroidered and quilted 21 *hangings*. Most of them were gifted to her married kids and grandkids. Several were donated to the Old Mill Center for Children and Families in Corvallis who used them as auction items. When Julie’s eyes finally gave out, she retired her needles!

Jewell's life spanned nine decades between the Great Depression of the 1930s through the global COVID pandemic which started in 2020. She claimed her life had always been interesting but was not always easy, and the lessons she learned from her parents as a kid in the Missouri Ozarks about *hard work, making-do*, being honest, and *treating others as you would have them treat you* were some of the most important to her 95 years of life.

Jewell's ashes will be interred beside those of her husband, Ken Bielman's, at Oak Lawn Memorial Park in Corvallis, OR, where a family celebration of her life will take place.

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