Emelene “Em” Vernice Ellwood

In her 90th year, Em was Promoted to Glory on January 9, 2024.

The second daughter of Margaret and Fred Higgins, Em was born in Nanaimo, BC on August 15, 1934. She is lovingly remembered by her husband of 68 years, Tom; her daughter, Patricia (Wes) Roed of Campbell River; her son, John (Jackie) Ellwood of Victoria; her grandsons, Ryan, Corbin and Spencer Roed; granddaughter, Ashley Ellwood (Graeme); niece, Delaine (Paul); nephew, Gordon (Colleen); as well as her extended family and many, many good friends.

Born into a strong Salvation Army family, Em became a dedicated lifelong Salvationist. She was always active in her church, she sang in the songsters, the ladies vocal trio and as a soloist. Em loved meeting people, making new friends and discovering new places. In support of her husband, Em was excited to move to many different places. In December 1959, they moved to Sydney, Australia for two years where Em made a number of lifelong friends. They returned to Vancouver in 1961 where they started their family, Patricia in 1961 and then John in 1964. In 1965 the family moved to Prince Rupert for two years and then to the new instant town of Gold River for two years, and then again to Gibsons, BC before returning to Victoria for three years. In 1974 the family moved to Castlegar, BC where Em made wonderful friends with several Doukhobor ladies who taught her the secret of making their wonderful borscht. From 1975 until 1981, the family lived in Courtenay, BC before finally returning to Victoria permanently. Regardless where they lived, for over 60 years Em enjoyed the summer months at the Salvation Army’s Camp Sunrise on the Sunshine Coast. There she reconnected with her many friends from Greater Vancouver as well as helping as a volunteer in the kitchen or laundry; or with the children. The camp for her was a very special place which she called “Holy

Ground”! She loved children and almost daily at camp she would hold “tea parties” for the kids who all called her “Auntie Em.” At her church in Victoria for years she taught in the Sunday school, looked after the kitchen making meals and treats for church dinners, wedding receptions, funerals and church groups as well as being a very active songster. She had great energy and just loved being active and helping others. She was a very happy person who had a constant wonderful smile. She brightened the lives of so many people and she will be missed!

We would like to thank the Emergency Paramedics, the Doctors and nurses at Royal Jubilee Hospital Emergency Unit, and Nurse John and Dr. Porayco at the ICU for their kind and empathetic care for Mom.

Em’s Celebration of Life will be held at THE SALVATION ARMY VICTORIA CITADEL, 4030 Douglas Street on Saturday, January 27 at 2:00 pm.

For those unable to attend in person, please follow this link to view the livestream of the service.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens
www.mccallgardens.com