



Irene F. Rufer

September 4, 1918 - August 8, 2011

Irene Rufer passed away August 8, 2011 in Spokane, WA. She was born in Hillsboro, Oregon to Jacob & Flora (Wright) Rufer on September 4, 1918, the youngest of 4 children. She attended schools in Holbrook and Silverton, Oregon. She attended high school in Spangle, WA. During her Junior year of high school she spent the summer with an Aunt and Uncle on their ranch where she enjoyed riding horses and helping to round up cattle. She continued her education at Eastern Washington University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Education degree and later received her Master's degree. Irene's teaching career began at Deep Creek where she taught the upper 4 grades and was also the custodian and coach. Her softball team won the county championship. She taught grades 5-6 at Chattaroy and grades 4-5 at Sprague. This was followed by many years of teaching in Spokane School District 81. She taught 3rd grade at Hamilton Elementary, was a guidance counselor at Havermale Jr. High and then at Sacajawea Jr. High. She moved to Central Staff and her last position was that of manager of Loma Vista Guidance Center. Irene was president of American Childhood Education and served on many committees. She was also president of her Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and held other offices as well. After retiring she served as secretary for the administrative council and in various other capacities at Cheney United Methodist Church. Traveling and golfing with her friends were among the many activities she enjoyed. She was devoted to her family and enjoyed participating in many family events. She spent the last three years of her life at Clare Bridge of Spokane and, being the thoughtful, caring person that she was, made many friends there. Irene was gracious and compassionate. She was loved by all who knew her. The family wishes to thank the staff and attendants at Clare Bridge for the exceptional love and care they gave to Irene. She is survived by sisters Rosina Fairbanks and Lorene Remmers and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother Jacob Rufer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cheney United Methodist Church, 204 4th St., Cheney, WA 99004 or a charity of your choice. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 19, at Cheney Funeral Chapel with a luncheon to follow at Cheney United Methodist Church. Viewing will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on that morning. Burial will be at Fairmount Memorial Park in Spokane.

Tribute Wall

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“ My grandparents, Fred and Nellie Reuter lived next door to the Rufer home on F Street in Cheney. I remember seeing her when we visied my grandparents in the 1950's. Later I would see her when I was a teacher and principal in Spokane and Irene was a counselor. The last time I saw Irene was about 8 years ago. I was in Cheney to go to lunch with a friend and arrived early. I parked my car and walked around my grandparents home. Irene was working in her yard and as I approached her she greeted me, "Hi Billy". (This was always the name my grandma called me.)
Irene was a wonderful lady and a fine educator. She will be missed.

Bill Reuter - August 17, 2011 at 04:33 PM

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“ Irene Rufer was a third grade teacher at Hamilton Elementary when I attended in the '50's. She was the teacher I wanted because of her warm smile, kindness and unending patience. Unfortunately, I was not one of the lucky students in her classroom. However, she did make a lasting impression on me by modeling the best example of the kind of teacher I wanted to become. I am still grateful for her influence.
My condolences to her family & friends.

Susan Evans (Sandberg) - August 14, 2011 at 03:24 PM