



## Linda Jean Span

February 28, 1952 - November 22, 2020

Linda J. Span, RN, passed on Sunday, November 22, 2020. She was born the first child of E.C. Gresham and Jean V. Gresham in Colorado Springs, CO. Since her father was a career officer in the Air Force, Linda traveled the world with her parents and siblings. She attended 22 different schools near Air Force bases by the time she was 18. After graduation from high school in Montgomery, AL, Linda pursued a career as a Registered Nurse. She graduated from Lutheran Medical Center School of Nursing, and complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Cal-State-Humboldt State University. Linda often said Lutheran Medical School made her a nurse and she wore her Lutheran Medical School pin to work every day of her career. Linda started her 44-year marriage to John Span, who she met when she was 7, and her nursing career in Arcata, CA. Linda's first RN position was with Mad River Community Hospital. She moved quickly from staff nurse to day shift supervisor. After 20 years of nursing management assignments, she was recruited by Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, WA, to manage the Medical Surgical floor. Linda was ultimately promoted to Director over 5 departments at MultiCare Deaconess Hospital. Linda's success was not only found in promotions. She measured her success in her heartfelt passion for mentoring new nurses to succeed. Linda and John's home was their sanctuary away from work. Linda spent many hours tending her gardens, reading, knitting, quilting, and making jellies. She had an open invitation to friends and family to come to her retreat. The serene setting of their home allowed anyone who

came to escape into the whispering pines. Linda's religious sanctuary was found in her lifelong devotion to the Lutheran Church. She held many positions within the congregation. At the time of her death she was the church council President. Linda and John loved to travel. She especially enjoyed freediving on the coral reefs of the South Seas. Trips to Tahiti, Australia, and Hawaii released her inner child as soon as she put on her mask and dove into the turquoise waters of the South Pacific. Linda and John's lives also focused on trips to Europe. Linda loved the history that is Europe. They filled their days with cooking schools, art galleries, and WWII museums. Their travels brought Linda to Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, where she was overwhelmed when she found herself standing in front of the doors of the Church where Martin Luther posted the 95 theses. Linda found the stories about Katharina Luther financially supporting Martin in his theological pursuits to be the age-old story of women. Linda is survived by her husband John Span, her mother Jean Gresham, her siblings, and their spouses; Steve Gresham (Blanca), Cathy Landers (Richard), and Douglas Gresham (Carol). Her father preceded her in death in May 2020. Linda will be interred in Eureka, CA, near her grandfather C. D. Gresham and many of her husband's family. A celebration of life will be held for Linda and her father when covid-19 is under control. In Memory of Linda J. Span, RN: May she rest in peace with her family and God.

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ December 3, 2020

*Oh Miss Linda, how I will miss our chats and discussions. You were an ace, the guidance and the voice I wish I had available all of my life. For 4 years, I've been your nail tech but to me you were more; a friend, confidante, and the Motherly adviser I had never had. I will miss you more than words can express and didn't ever fathom a month without you. Your passing has been my most difficult yet because I never thought there could be a way you'd beat me to the gates. I hope you know that I admired your drive, strength, and ability to be 100% authentically you. You paved a way for many and will forever be remembered. I love you and already miss you dearly.*  
Shawna Meyers  
Friend

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**Shawna Meyers** - December 13, 2020 at 03:35 PM

MS

“ Linda was one of the kindest, most understanding, gentle (at least to me), influential, loving people in my life. She has been there for me my entire life, and I will always miss my Sunday email letting me know what the weather is, what John is doing in the yard, and what's on the stove. I'm so grateful to have had her in my life for so many years. Love you.. Mark



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**Mark Span** - December 07, 2020 at 11:12 AM

JM

“ I had the pleasure and honor of working with Linda for almost 20 years at Deaconess. Her dedication to high quality nursing care, professionalism, and sense of duty were ever present in her day to day life. Because of her love for nursing as a career, she was dedicated to mentoring young nurses. I respected her strength in difficult times, her ability to think outside of the box, her endless energy and her contagious love of nursing. The staff, I know, appreciated Linda's culinary skills...she treated us with many wonderful creations. I have a very hard time believing she has left us and already miss her, our phone calls and lunch dates...we would plan for an hour and end after 2-3 hours of endless chatter. I really appreciated her sense of humor and how she could put into words exactly what I was thinking. My sincere condolences to her loving husband, John.

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**Jane Marsh** - December 07, 2020 at 11:02 AM

DF

“ The first time I met Linda, I knew that she was a very special nurse. She was truly what an exemplary nurse should be. Compassionate, strong, and kind devoted to her staff and patients. She will always be a great example to me. Thank you Linda. I'm so very sad for her husband and family, but please know that her voice is still being heard. I will always hold her in my heart ❤️. Deanette

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**deanette fisetite** - December 02, 2020 at 12:01 AM

AN

“ It is so hard for me to accept her passing. She was the kind of person I thought would live forever. She truly impacted nursing at Deaconess and I believe her impact will live on for many many years. I have never known a greater manager. I was not privileged to work under her, but I did work beside her on numerous occasions and her love of her staff and patients always shined through. Integrity, grit, compassion, zeal, she had it all. She will truly be missed.

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**Amy Nap** - November 29, 2020 at 10:02 PM

GR

“ I had the great honor of working with Linda as a Student Nurse, Registered Nurse and Nurse Manager - she truly “walked the walk” - there was never a doubt of where her heart and passions lay. She epitomized what many of us aspired to as nurses and nurse leaders. She was beyond tireless in her commitment to professionalism, pride in nursing and staff WB’s patient advocacy.

*My heart hurts - our profession and our community lost a true angel.*

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**Gram McGregor, RN** - November 29, 2020 at 09:18 AM

JA

“ Linda was truly a wealth of information and so willing to lovingly share because of her commitment to the patients and the people caring for them. She was the epitome of “small but mighty”. I feel heartbroken and yet grateful for she will be the Guardian Angel walking the halls of Deaconess who keeps us all safe. She has left a legacy.

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**Jeannine Acantilado** - November 28, 2020 at 05:30 PM

VM

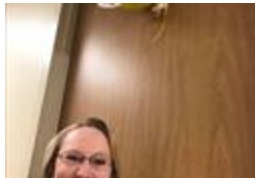
“ I first met Linda in Northern California while working at Mad River Community Hospital. She had the respect of all of the doctors and staff on the Med/ surgical unit. She was really a take charge person who also “ had your back”. Her energy was seemingly endless and her standards were high. When I came back to Spokane in 1992, I was happy to be back with family and friends. It never occurred to me that I would see Linda again. Low and behold, we met up in the elevator and stared at each other for a minute before I said, “ Linda?” We started laughing and she explained that she moved back so she could be near to her parents. It was no surprise when she said, “ I have taken the manager’s position on 10 tower.” It was nice talking to her and reminiscing about the time we spent in California and remembering friends there. Linda was a great nurse and leader. I will miss her.

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**Valerie Meyers-Richard** - November 28, 2020 at 05:05 PM

KN

“ Linda was truly the backbone of Deaconess’s nursing team for many years. I will never forget all that she taught me and will be forever grateful for the experience she shared with me. She always drove a hard line for excellent patient care and was the biggest supporter of the nurses that worked under her. She had a great sense of humor was a joy to work with. She will be so truly missed.



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**Katie Naipo** - November 27, 2020 at 11:47 PM

KG

“ Dearest Linda ... I cherish our many talks together. We shared our mutual love of the Lutheran expression of faith and our love for hospitality and deeply caring for and about the employees. Rest in the arms of Jesus, dear one.

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**Kathleen Graham** - November 27, 2020 at 10:57 PM

JM

*The true leader of 10 tw ran it like well machine,when it malfunction she was there to fix it with a loving talent of the hard working staff of 10 tw .You will b e missed .*

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**Julie Maddox** - November 28, 2020 at 12:09 PM

MH

*I will truly miss her in our congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She was a whirl wind! Always working at brake neck speed. The Good Lord will have to wear roller skates to keep up with her. Love and prayers for the family. She was a sweet, lovey person inside and out!*

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**Mary Henningsen** - November 29, 2020 at 01:50 PM

PS

*As an OB-GYN who practiced mostly at Deaconess, I knew Linda very well. She had to be one of the most dedicated and talented head nurses I have ever worked with. It was an honor to work with her and to have the privilege of her care and attention to the patients on 10 Tower. Her passion and spirit for life will be greatly missed.*

*Pam Silverstein*

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**pam silverstein** - November 29, 2020 at 11:18 PM

HW

*Linda you will be missed.*

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**Helen Westrum** - November 30, 2020 at 05:30 PM

CU

*I was lucky to have found a life long friend when my family moved to Maxwell AFB, Alabama & Linda's family was our neighbor. That was 52 years ago. Linda was a very dear friend. Even though we lived on opposite sides of the country, we maintained our friendship. We were both fortunate to marry mates who also became good friends. I have many fond memories of our short time together, our travel adventures & shared good times Linda's wonderful friendship, kindness, generosity & love will be with me always. May her light always shine.*  
*Chris U*

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**Chris U** - December 01, 2020 at 08:14 PM