



Mariann Lorenzen Donley

February 14, 1938 - May 12, 2020

Mariann L Donley, born in Elk River, California February 14, 1938, to Jacob and Louise Lorenzen, passed peacefully May 12, 2020, in Spokane, Washington. Mariann was born into a rural household, the last of a generation to attend a one-room schoolhouse. Her strong desire to be a part of education started early as she wandered across the road to the Elk River School at 4 years old. She got to stay, and by 5th grade, she was assisting the teacher with educating younger classmates. After graduating from Eureka High School, Mariann attended Humboldt State College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Education and continued her education at the University of Illinois, where she received a Master's Degree in Education. Her early desire to teach others developed into a lifelong career as a public educator. Mariann taught elementary school for a combined 42 years in California, Illinois, and her longest stint at Betz Elementary in Cheney, Washington where she taught 4th grade, and loved every minute of it. After retiring from public education, she spent only one school year away from the classroom. The following year, she was asked to work with the Department of Education at Eastern Washington University, where she worked for 15 years doing many things such as supervising student teachers and teaching classes. While attending Humboldt State, she met and married her lifelong friend and husband of 62 years, Dick Donley. The two of them moved to Cheney, Washington over 50 years ago to pursue their dream of building a family and a home. They purchased a house and a piece of land in Amber, Washington, south of

Cheney, started a small hobby farm, had two children, and began the life they had dreamt of together. Mariann came from a rural background, living in the “country“ fit her like a glove. She truly loved her community, neighbors, and friends. She was known far and wide as the person who always had time to share her amazing cooking, a hug, a kiss (some of her kids’ teenage friends found that awkward), and love for everyone she had time and energy to fit into her life. She didn’t make much of her role in the community other than to believe we owe it to ourselves and others to look out for and love each other unconditionally. She had other passions as well. She and Dick spent their spring and summer days maintaining their massive garden providing fresh produce for all who knew her. Her canned goods and preserves were of local legend. Mariann loved giving back to her community and was involved in many community organizations such as PEO, and ADK. She was also an active member of the Cheney Congregational Church. She loved cooking, baking, canning, bargain shopping, lunching with friends and family, and a healthy pour of boxed chardonnay. In recent years, while she was recuperating from cancer and surgery, she grew to love sports. It was this new-found enthusiasm that helped her grow into a rabid Eastern Eagles fan, attending football and basketball games as often as possible. In this past year, she became a fan of Curling and was lucky enough to attend every session of the US National Curling Championships held in Cheney. Mariann had unending energy. Many friends, family, and colleagues jokingly called her the Energizer Bunny. Not only did she channel her energy into pursuing her passions in life, but she also gave everything she had to her family. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be deeply missed by all. Mariann is survived by her husband, Dick Donley, daughter Katy Magee (Charles), son Chris (Leanne), and her grandchildren Abby, Davis, Loren, and Cora. In lieu of flowers or cards, please donate to the Eagle Athletic Fund in her name.

Tribute Wall

EK

“ *Why do the real nice people have to die? Her energy and love of life was contagious. The events at the Donley house involved literally hundreds of people. Adults and kids loved the festive times. Barbara and Gene Kiver enjoyed their company and meaningful conversations. Thanks for adding so much to all of our lives.*

Eugene and Barbara Kiver - May 17, 2020 at 10:01 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Cheney Funeral Chapel - May 15, 2020 at 05:40 PM

MO

*So blessed to have known Mariann. She was small but mighty!! A whirling dervish in her heels. The world has lost a great lady but heaven has gained one. Sending my thoughts and prayers to Dick and the Donley family.
Sending my love, Mo*

Maureen O'Brien - May 16, 2020 at 03:48 PM

DK

I first met Mrs. Donley when my kids went to Betz. She was a great teacher and a beautiful lady. You always knew when she was coming cuz you heard her heels on the floors. She will be greatly missed.

Debbie Kinnie

Deb Kinnie - May 16, 2020 at 09:59 PM

LC

A GRAND LADY, who I admired greatly. She was my mentor and a teacher to so many. Condolences to Dick, family, and all who loved this special soul.

Leslie Shaw Cicero - May 16, 2020 at 10:16 PM



I never had the honor of meeting Mariann, but I feel I know her from all the stories I've heard from her daughter, Katy. May her legacy continue in those who new her and her memory be eternal.

Romana Plesa - May 17, 2020 at 10:50 AM



We could all learn from the wonderful person that Mariann was. I am forever blessed to have known her.

Linda Huggett - May 17, 2020 at 01:22 PM

DB

When I was part of the education faculty at EWU, I met several teacher candidates who told me that Mariann had been their teacher in elementary school. She had the rare gift and talent for being able to help students learn no matter the age or stage. I have great respect and admiration for Mariann's decades of energy, kindness, and support of hundreds of students and colleagues.

Darcy Bradley - May 17, 2020 at 02:00 PM

TC

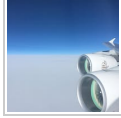
Ms Mary was a very special lady. She was our Washington mama and a heck of an accordion player. We dearly love her and will miss her greatly. ❤️❤️

Tony and Linda Capdeboscq - May 17, 2020 at 08:09 PM

NL

Our family was blessed to share a small part of our lives with Mariann. She was such a positive, energetic, and giving person and the world has lost a very special lady. We will miss her..

nancy lutchendorf - May 17, 2020 at 11:26 PM



May her soul rest in peace.

Rashad Samedzade - May 18, 2020 at 01:52 AM



I will never forget you, Mariann. Your smile, energy and style will be missed always. You were beautiful inside and out and the world is a little dimmer without you in it.

Suzie Henning - May 18, 2020 at 02:12 PM



What a wonderful woman who made a difference to all who met her. She made you a better person and teacher by just knowing her. Her smile told you all you needed to know.

BONNIE ISOM - May 19, 2020 at 05:28 PM



Dear Katy and family. I'm so glad I got to meet your mom one time she was visiting with you. I still have the Bossy cow apron she made for me. I love it and was quite touched, that she had made it for me. She was a wonderful lady. With sympathy, love, and prayers, Judy and Herman Bosse

Judy Bosse - May 22, 2020 at 10:02 AM



The Stewart family shares in this tremendous loss of a great lady and person! We have wonderful family memories of 4th of July celebrations @ the Donleys. Plus the many, many, many other shared occasions over the years. We're presently enjoying Mariann Strawberry jam. So many ways Mariann touched hearts and lives!!! What a special family you are ~ such warmth, genuineness, and hospitality. Our loving wishes extend to all of you. Chris & Jerry Stewart (@ Katy ... the young Mariann picture is so "you"!)

Chris Stewart - July 09, 2020 at 01:55 PM



I'll miss Mariann greatly. She was warm, effusive, and had a wicked sense of humor to boot. She was a great colleague and an even greater human being.

Vince Aleccia - October 15, 2020 at 05:56 PM