



## Emma E. Low

October 3, 1945 - May 7, 2025

Emma Elaine (Kenoyer) Low

October 3, 1945-May 7, 2025

Our beloved sister, aunt and friend passed away suddenly on May 7, 2025. Emma was born to Wright Kenoyer and Alice (Hittle) Kenoyer on October 3, 1945 in Wenatchee, Washington. She joined four siblings: Wayne, Patricia (Madsen), Jerry and Edward. At the age of three years old, Emma's father was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident. With the steadfast love of her mother and siblings, Emma had wonderful memories of her childhood years. She attended grade school at Monitor Grade School through eighth grade, where her mother was a teacher. She made lifelong friends during her grade school years and maintained those friendships through the end of her life. Emma often talked about the community dances, hiking the Monitor hillsides, and swimming at Doll's pool in Monitor.

Emma went to Cashmere High School where she was a cheerleader, Student Body president, Princess Monitor, and developed a love for learning. Emma talked about the impact her English teacher, Mrs. Ferry had on her life, by inspiring her love for books, poetry and literature. Emma was quoting

Shakespeare by memory the last week of her life. Emma graduated from CHS in 1963, attended Wenatchee Valley College, and graduated from Central Washington University. Emma was a lifelong learner, had a hunger for knowledge and was an avid reader. She held a variety of intellectual interests and enjoyed deep engaging conversations and debating her philosophical ideas.

Emma married Verdelle E. Low on October 16, 1969. Together they raised his young son, Del. Verdelle and Emma lived a full life, filled with travel, season tickets to the Seattle Rep theatre and others, yard sales, flea markets and annual trips to the Bellevue Arts and Crafts show. They fostered many deep and lasting friendships together. Over the years, their numerous four legged friends gave them hours of joy. Emma tenderly and lovingly cared for Verdelle until he passed in February 2025.

Emma taught English at junior high and high schools in Colorado, Sequim, Yelm, and Puyallup (Aylen Jr. High and PHS). Emma taught in China for a year after the Tiananmen Square incident. She immersed

herself in the culture and thoroughly enjoyed her time there. Emma deeply invested in the intellectual development of her students, and remained connected with many of her past colleagues and students even during the final years of her life.

Emma loved being outdoors, was an environmentalist, and held deep regard for the Earth and all living creatures. Emma joined a mountaineering club allowing her to climb many peaks in the Pacific Northwest and make several dear friendships. She also spent time hiking in Europe as she lived her life to

the fullest.

After retiring from teaching, Emma spent several years alternating time between her home in Tacoma and caring for her beloved mother in Cashmere until her mother's death. While in Cashmere, she spent time with her brothers, hiked the "beloved hills" of her childhood with her nieces, nephews, and many befriended neighborhood dogs. Emma was known as the "fun and quirky" aunt by her nieces and nephews, and enjoyed sewing doll clothes for her nieces, and making homemade ice cream. She had a great sense of humor and her laughter filled every room she entered. Emma was a blessing to all who knew her, and she will be remembered dearly and missed greatly.

Emma was preceded in death by her husband Verdelle Low, his son Del, her parents, Wright and Alice Kenoyer, brother Wayne Kenoyer, and her sister Patricia Madsen. The family would like to thank the caregivers at Bonaventure for providing loving care during Emma's past year. As per Emma's request, there will be no funeral. Memories may be shared at Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Tacoma Rescue Mission or the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society.

Wenatchee Valley Humane Society: <https://www.wenatcheehumane.org/helptoday>

Tacoma Rescue Mission: <https://www.trm.org/?form=FUNHYQK>

Please express your thoughts and memories on our online guestbook at

[jonesjonesbetts.com](http://jonesjonesbetts.com).

Arrangements are by Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

CA

“*Mrs. Low took over as our English teacher at PHS in 1982-83. She was a lovely lady, and I enjoyed being in her class that year. She always had a smile on her face, was a treasure to the students that had her, and her classroom was always a soft place to land. I'm pretty sure it's her mailbox I've seen over the years in my neighborhood (on 72nd in Tacoma), and I always think of her as I drive by. I noticed a for sale sign the other day, and that's how I discovered she passed away. My condolences to her family. Rest in peace Mrs. Low. (Cathy from honors English, 1983)*

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**Cathy** - November 23, 2025 at 01:36 AM

A(

“*Ms. Low was my English teacher at Ayles Jr. High School back in 1984. She was such a great teacher and an even better person. She helped me through a very rough time in my childhood and I will always love her for that. 40 years later she remains my favorite teacher and will be remembered fondly. Rest in peace Ms. Low.*

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**Angela Emery (Peck)** - November 10, 2025 at 03:47 PM

MW

“ Dear Emma, you would be 80 years old this month. You left us too soon, far too soon. I think we met in 1986, your classroom across the hall at Aylen Junior High School. I would have to confirm the date with Linda, our principal who brought us together and whose steel trap mind and golden heart you and I both depended on for decades. What a rollicking good time we had over the years. Your gift to me of another best friend was Leah Wells, whom I will trust and treasure forever. I am grateful beyond words for the connections we shared. So many words that rang true back then will never leave me. “Assume good will,” leads the way. another was the Chinese proverb, “May you live in interesting times.” or rather, I think it is considered a curse. And hasn’t it come true for us! And now that you are everywhere, I think you might be smiling at what humanity is doing to itself and the Earth. No one to blame but ourselves. I miss you so much. With love your forever friend, Megs

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**Margaret Woltjer** - October 07, 2025 at 01:28 PM

“ *Members of the Kenoyer Family,*

*Emma was a lifelong friend whom I met right out of college, as a brand new teacher at Yelm. She took me under her wing. We had great discussions, shared a lot of laughs and developed a sustaining friendship. I learned how deeply she cared about her students and about education. When she went to China she wrote me letters that did reach me. I would brew a cup of tea, sit own and quietly read her wonderful long letters full of astute observations about her experience there. No one else could have gained more from an "abroad" trip than Emma.*

*She read widely. A visit to her house included meandering in her "library," choosing two or three books to read, and sitting down in the living room with Emma, and Verdelle. I remember her cats in these cozy times, and how much she loved them. We had some very stimulating conversations, and endless challenges to keep up with her must read books, her latest art acquisition, and her next photography project. My husband, Craig, became her good friend and my two children would come to know and appreciate Emma and Verdelle also. As I reflect on my 50 years of knowing her, traveling with her, I can't even remember all the life affirmations I gained from Emma.*

*We shared so many delightful times together, hiking, cooking, sewing and attempting to "bag" Cascade peaks with the Tacoma Mountaineers. She often shared stories about her life in Monitor, the nieces and nephews, how she crafted "special doll clothes" for the their various dolls in their growing up years, how she cared for her mother, hiked up the canyons and befriended, many neighborhood dogs. I am sure you all know how blessed you are to have had an aunt/sister like Emma. So creative, loving, intelligent and passionate.*

*I will miss my friend, Emma.*

*Becky Schild Vroom*

**Becky Vroom** - June 04, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ I wish to thank Emma's niece Diane Norwood for letting me know of Emma's passing. I met her when we were both teaching at Yelm High School about 1971. I had found out that her maiden name was Kenoyer and she facially resembled June Kenoyer who had attended high school with me at Oakville, WA. It turned out they were cousins. I became friends with her and her husband Verdelle. Although we often disagreed on politics and religion she usually made me think. One summer when I was teaching at Pacific Lutheran she and Verdelle let me stay with them. In spite of differences we forged a friendship that endured as did her marriage to Verdelle. I last saw her in August of 2024 and later learned they had moved to East Wenatchee. I extend my condolences to her siblings and nieces and nephews. Take care and God bless. RIP Emma, Verdelle and Del

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**James Vosper** - May 23, 2025 at 12:02 AM

DL

“ I have known Emma for nearly 50 years. People come into our lives in all kinds of ways. How was I so blessed that my first “heartbreak” would result in one of the most special friendships in my life. I met Emma and Verdelle through Del. I have cherished our phone calls & Christmas cards over the years. I am heartbroken but find comfort in knowing that they are all together.

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**Donna Lee** - May 22, 2025 at 06:00 PM

DH

“ Ever since I met her at Yelm High School in the 1970s Emma was a shining light of love, laughter and full of life. Such a smart and especially insightful person. And what a great laugh she had! The world lost a good one for sure. Thanks Emma for being a great friend and mentor.  
love to all her family, Denise Hylton

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**Denise Hylton** - May 18, 2025 at 06:26 PM