



Vera-Fern Holland

November 25, 1931 - December 6, 2018

Vera-Fern Holland was a teacher. A true educator not only impacts the lives of their students, but they begin a chain reaction of learning that echoes throughout the entire community long after they are gone. So it was, and will always be, for “Mrs. Holland” who passed away peacefully on December 6th, 2018.

Fern, as everyone knew her, was born on November 25th, 1931, in Jordan, Montana, to Helen (Mahoney) and Judson Vannoy. She joined her older sister Julia and was followed by her baby brother, Glen. Life was hard in extreme rural Montana during the Depression, so in 1934 the family moved to Olympia. When Fern was 11, her father passed away from cancer. With Julia leaving for college soon, Fern had to help her single mother make ends meet and care for Glen.

After graduating from Olympia High School in 1950, Fern was fortunate to attend the University of LaVerne in LaVerne, California. Coincidentally (or not) another person was attending LaVerne; a funny, yet serious boy from the orchards of Wenatchee, Larry Holland, whom Fern had met at summer church camps. In 1954, Larry and Fern both graduated from LaVerne with degrees in education, and they were married on August 21st of that same year. They remained in love for 64 years.

Fern's teaching career began in the Wenatchee Valley, but because Larry was drafted into the Army, she also taught in San Antonio, Texas, and later Honolulu, Hawaii, where Larry was stationed. After the couple moved back to Wenatchee, Fern soon began teaching first grade at Sunnyslope Elementary, where she remained until her retirement in 1989. Fern was a champion for literacy, giving the gift of reading to hundreds of students. No greater thing may be said of a person.

Fern was a lifelong learner and encouraged others to do the same. She earned a Master's Degree in Education. She purchased an Apple computer in the early 80s, and later was a dedicated Mac user. She kept books for the family cherry orchard and blueberry farm, read voraciously, wrote books, exchange taught in Australia, traveled, and arguably made the best peach cobbler in the Valley. There were few obstacles Fern could not overcome; one of her favorite sayings was, "All you have to do is..." and then she did it.

Family was everything to Fern. She taught her children to be independent and strong. She seldom missed a music/sporting/drama event of her children or grandchildren, modeling that just being present for family is the best way to show love. Faith was a bedrock of Fern's life; her children and grandchildren were imbued with Fern's faith. It is this faith that sustains all of us, and gives us peace knowing Fern is in the everlasting arms of her Savior.

Fern is survived by her husband, Larry Holland of Wenatchee, Washington; sister, Julia Roth of Lacey, Washington; daughter Kay-Lani Munro (Mike) of Happy Valley, Oregon; daughter Joni Britt (Ken) of Wenatchee Washington; son Dale Holland (Mary) of Enumclaw, Washington; grandchildren Stephanie Wetterlin (Kevin), Marcus Munro, Evan Britt, Tessa Britt, Will Holland, Katie Holland, Andy Holland and Ben Holland; and great grandchild Bryce Wetterlin. Fern was preceded in death by her brother, J. Glen Vannoy.

A memorial service will be held at Celebration Lutheran Church, 801 8th St NE East Wenatchee, on January 5th, 2019 at 1:00 pm. Memorials may be made to the North Central Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1847, Wenatchee 98807.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 5. 1:00 PM (PT)

Celebration Lutheran Church
801 8th St. NE
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Tribute Wall

KW

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Mrs.Holland’s passing. I’ve only just seen this so wasn’t aware. Mrs.Holland and Mr.Holland were my 5th grade teachers in Australia in 1985. I adored both of them and was privileged to see her again when I was living in London as an adult. She was one of my all time favourite teachers and I will treasure the memories I have of the times I spent both in her classroom and as an adult.

Kerrie Wilson - May 11, 2019 at 05:38 AM

SW

“ Share & Ed Wetterlin lit a candle in memory of Vera-Fern Holland



Share & Ed Wetterlin - December 23, 2018 at 06:37 PM

SA

“ My prayers are with the Holland family. Mrs. Holland was my 3rd grade teacher at Sunnyslope elementary school in 1980. I can still remember the colored multiplication worksheets that she had in her class. When I think of all my teachers I had, Mrs. Holland will always be my favorite. RIP Mrs. Holland, I was truly blessed to have you as a teacher.

Steve Applegarth

Steve Applegarth - December 17, 2018 at 09:41 PM

DG

“ *Dee & John Gilmore lit a candle in memory of Vera-Fern Holland*



Dee & John Gilmore - December 16, 2018 at 11:37 PM

WB

“ *We send our love and prayers to you, Larry and your family. Fern was so practical and yet so caring. We were friends from 1958. Everett, of course, with Larry longer. Our children were friends while they were younger. This year I found a book given to James on a very early birthday with "from Kay-Lani" written on the front cover. Thanks to all of you who gave us a life well lived.*

Everett and Willow Burts

Willow and Everett Burts - December 15, 2018 at 02:29 PM

LL

“ *Verafern was a member of our River City Sams camping chapter and a good friend. Larry & Vera Fern were charter members who untill poor health were avid members. Will dearly miss her strong smile and friendship.*

Louis & Pat Lowell - December 14, 2018 at 10:26 PM

PK

“ *Mrs . Holland was my first grade teacher. I loved her. I always loved running into Mr. and Mrs. Holland later in life. I became a teacher and both of them were so happy about that. Mrs. Holland left quite a Sunnyslooe legacy and I'm proud to be a small part of that legacy! She will be missed. Sincere love and sympathy. Pary (Smith) Kenck*

pary kenck - December 11, 2018 at 11:23 PM

SR

“ *Stephen Roth lit a candle in memory of Vera-Fern Holland*



Stephen Roth - December 11, 2018 at 10:19 PM

DM

“ *Debb (Russ) Moldenhauer lit a candle in memory of Vera-Fern Holland*



Debb (Russ) Moldenhauer - December 11, 2018 at 08:16 AM

DM

“ *The Russ family is saddened to hear of the loss of an amazing woman, teacher, mentor, and community member. We all have such fond memories of time spent with your family. We send you our condolences.*

Debb (Russ) Moldenhauer - December 11, 2018 at 08:15 AM