



Brenda Follett

December 23, 1941 - January 21, 2025

Brenda Jean Backes Follett went to be with her beloved husband Richard “Dick” Arnold Follett on January 21, 2025. She was born December 23, 1941, in Wenatchee, WA to Eldon and Agnes (Peck) Backes, the oldest of nine children. She attended school in Wenatchee until the Great Northern Roundhouse closed in 1955 at which time the family relocated to Everett, WA where she graduated from Everett High School. Shortly after graduation on June 18, 1960, she married her junior high school sweetheart Dick Follett of Wenatchee. They made their first home in Mattawa, WA before moving to Ephrata in 1967.

Brenda worked as a school secretary at Wanapum Elementary, a clerk at JCPenney and secretary at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School where she enjoyed working with the Daughters of Charity, retiring June 1994. As Brenda was not ready to be totally retired, she went to work for the Ephrata School District as a classroom para and a Special Needs bus monitor where she found a passion working with the children.

Brenda was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Ephrata, YLI, the Buzzin Dozen, and a Campfire Leader (10 yrs.) She will be remembered for her big heart as she was always there for others with a kind word, card, food or help.

She enjoyed attending her children’s and grandchildren’s school and athletic

events, keeping scores at EHS track meets, and traveling around Washington with Dick in their RV; especially spending extended time fishing at Twin Lakes.

After her husband's passing in February 2006, she found joy by volunteering at the Ephrata Food Bank. Loving to dance, she joined the Line Dancing Grannies where she found joy in performing around nearby nursing homes and hospitals; eventually joining the Wheatland Whirlers she loved attending 4x8 square dances around the area. She also had great times traveling with her kids to the Oregon Coast, California, Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone and numerous trips to the lakes and casinos.

Brenda is survived by her daughter Debbie (Ed) Tate, and their children, Kristin (Mike) Rizk and Casey (Kevin) Dunlap. Son, Rick Follett, and his children, Hunter and Rebecca Follett. Rod (Lynette) Follett and their children, Cody and Peyton Follett. Great grandchildren, Sophie Rizk, Weston, and Waylon Dunlap.

Sisters, Laverne (Buck) Schott, Paulette (Steve) Berg, Tamara Gregory, and Alice (Dave) Wallin. Brothers, Mike, John, Tom (Darci), Tim (Maretina) Backes, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and great-grandchild, Annabelle Rizk.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Rose of Lima School in Ephrata.

A Graveside service will be held Thursday, Jan 30th, at 10:00 AM at Evergreen Memorial Park & Mausoleum, East Wenatchee.

A Memorial Mass & Luncheon will be held Thursday, Jan 30th at 1:00 pm, at St. Rose of Lima Church, 323 D St. SW, Ephrata.

Arrangements by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 30. 10:00 AM (PT)

Evergreen Memorial Park & Mausoleum
1301 10th St NE
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
(509) 884-4651

Memorial Mass

JAN 30. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Rose Of Lima Church
323 D St. SW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Slide Show



Kristin Rizk - January 31, 2025 at 09:56 AM

TM

“ When Duane and I moved to Ephrata, Brenda was the first to invite us to dinner. We were welcomed into their lives, their home, and their hearts. That was such a special welcome and blessing in our young married life.

Brenda was officially the secretary at St. Rose School, but I always felt she was so much more than that; she was really the St. Rose "Mom." With a smile on her face and a "you can do this" attitude, she showed everyone that they were important. Her gentle influence, spirituality, and many acts of kindness helped shape the close community at St. Rose School.

When I was on maternity leave and dealing with a colicky baby, I was frustrated and tired. My own mother and mother-in-law were all the way across the state. I took my baby to school and asked Brenda how to calm this baby. She showed me how to hold him, bounce him, rub his tummy, and reminded me to stay calm. It only took a few minutes, but I felt like she had saved my life. Brenda was in my corner and it all was going to be OK.

Brenda's spirit is a gift to all who knew her, and it's the gift that keeps on giving. She taught me patience, to offer genuine smiles, to listen well to others, and to try to bless someone else's life every day. Thank you, Brenda. Go with God. In these times, I know He can use your moral support.

Terri McGuire - January 27, 2025 at 10:25 PM

ET

Thank You!

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:04 PM

JW

“ When I showed up as a young teacher to St. Rose, Brenda, as the school secretary, was super welcoming and always supportive. She helped to make St. Rose the warm, wonderful school that it was. After I left St. Rose and Ephrata, Brenda and I stayed in touch through our Christmas letters and a couple of visits. It's hard to think about St. Rose without thinking of Brenda - in the office, at the annual picnics, anywhere her help was needed. She was a kind and generous woman that I will remember always.

Julie (Hemmer) Winchell - January 27, 2025 at 10:22 PM

ET

Hi Julie, She sure looked forward to your Christmas letter every year and could hardly wait to share it with me.

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:06 PM

CH

“ Deb and family, so sorry to hear about your mom. I sure enjoyed working with her when she was at The Ridge. She always had a smile💕💕

Cheryl Heinold - January 27, 2025 at 09:04 PM

ET

She loved her time working at The Ridge and had very fond memories of the staff and student's. Thank You for your kind words.

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:08 PM

TC

“ Condolences and much love to the Follett Family. Brenda was truly a great lady, and she will be missed.

Terry Cleman - January 27, 2025 at 07:46 PM

ET

Thank You!

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:09 PM

JS

“ *She was a very special woman who brought a light to this world. Thanks for sharing her with us! Condolences and prayers to the family!*

Julie Saunders - January 27, 2025 at 03:13 PM

ET

Thank You so much for your kind words. She definitely had a zest for life and made the world a better place!

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:13 PM

BL

“ *Sending our thoughts, prayers and love to all the Follett Family especially Rick, Debbie and Rod. Brenda was a wonderful, kind, generous and gentle person. We find great comfort knowing that her spirit has been reunited with her true love Dick. Dick and Brenda befriended us when we moved to Ephrata in 1971. Brenda was the perfect secretary at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School always welcoming everyone into the St. Rose community. I will always remember Dick's kindness in driving the U-Haul when we moved back to Spokane in 1980. We will miss you Brenda but know that you are now at peace after a good long life. Peace, Richard & Bobbie League*

Bobbie League - January 27, 2025 at 02:33 PM

ET

Thanks for all your support, kind offers and being there with us in Spokane. Love You

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:14 PM

LP

“ *It's a great loss will miss her and now she has her wings and with all her love ones that have their wings are having a great reunion. She was a great friend and part of our group of the "Line Dance Grannies"! Sending regrets to the families in their loss!*

Laura Paulson - January 26, 2025 at 02:55 PM

ET

Thanks Laura, Boy did she love dancing and performing with you and the Line Dancing Grannies.

etate - January 31, 2025 at 12:15 PM