



## Marilyn Gearhart

March 24, 1936 - February 29, 2024

Marilyn left us the morning of February 29, 2024 at eighty-seven years old.

Marilyn had an activity-filled life. She grew up in Douglas County, the eldest daughter of John and Esther (née Sydow) Viebrock. From Douglas's one-room schoolhouse, Marilyn went on to graduate from the University of Washington in 1959 with a Master's certificate in Medical Technology.

Marilyn met her lifelong partner Walt Gearhart at the University of Washington. They married in 1959 and enjoyed sixty-two years together before Walt passed in 2021. Throughout a busy career, Marilyn provided clinical and research assistance to numerous doctors for over thirty years. In 1991, Marilyn and Walt cofounded with another couple Quorum Review, an ethics review board for medical research. The company enjoyed nearly constant growth for over twenty-five years.

Marilyn had a lifelong love of animals, from raising and training horses to showing dogs. She was constantly caring for one animal or another, from horses to cats to alpacas to golden retrievers. She and Walt traveled the country to show dogs and cultivated a wide circle of friends. The Wenatchee Kennel Club recently dedicated its building to Marilyn and Walt for the active roles they took within the club.

Marilyn was always willing to help where it was needed. At any given time she could be found volunteering with a local scholarship organization, ushering at her community church, or selling cinnamon rolls at the NCW Fair. She and Walt helped establish the nonprofit Big Bend Care Council, which helped bring assisted care to Waterville, and the nonprofit Douglas Community Historical Association, which renovated and maintains the historic Douglas Church.

Marilyn's family expresses its gratitude to the caregivers who were friends as well as care providers and to staff at Highgate Senior Living who helped make Marilyn's last days comfortable.

Marilyn is survived by her sisters Judy Pace and Valerie Carrier; her children Jim and Cami Gearhart; and six grandchildren: Alex, Max, and Sam Burner; and Michael, Jessica, and Nicole Gearhart.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 20 at Celebration Lutheran Church, East Wenatchee, followed by a shared meal. A burial ceremony will be held at the Douglas Cemetery.

Arrangements by Chapel of the Valley.

# Previous Events

## Funeral

APR 20. 11:00 AM (PT)

Celebration Lutheran Church  
801 8th St NE  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802  
<https://clcewen.org/>

## Graveside

APR 20. 12:00 PM (PT)

Douglas Lutheran Cemetery  
J Rd NW  
Waterville, WA 98858

# Tribute Wall

LD

“ I am very sorry to hear about the passing of Marilyn, she was an extraordinary woman. She was so gracious and generous, her smile and laughter were infectious. I enjoyed working for Walt & Marilyn for over 20 years while they lived in Douglas. My condolences to the family, she will be missed by many friends in the Douglas and Waterville communities.

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**LaiLee Daling** - April 11, 2024 at 07:10 PM